



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, December 17, 2023

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

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

Why do Christians pray? by Jason Farr (edited)

If I told you I was friends with comedian Conan O'Brien, you'd ask, "How often do you get to see him?" If I said, "I haven't met him yet. But I've watched his show and I've read a lot of articles about him," you'd think I was nuts. Knowing about Conan O'Brien and knowing Conan O'Brien are not the same thing. We can't know someone or have a real relationship without spending time together.

Prayer turns one-way research into two-way communication.

God wants a relationship with us. It's why He sent Jesus to die for our sins — so we can have a relationship again. Building that relationship is why Christians pray. We get to know God as we read the Bible and pray.

Four Things That Happen When We Pray

1. **We experience closeness with God.** Prayer is intimate and personal (Psalm 139:23-24). When Christians pray to Jesus, sharing with Him on a personal level helps us to trust Him more.
2. **We find peace of mind.** We can get bogged down by the negative thoughts in our heads. When we take our worry and doubt to God in prayer, we gain insight to overcome our negative thoughts. When we pray with thanksgiving and petition, God gives us peace unlike anything we can imagine (Philippians 4:7).
3. **We find the words to explain what we're feeling.** We don't always know what to say when we pray, but God does. Romans 8:26 says, "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us..." When we humbly seek God, the Holy Spirit expresses in prayer what we can't articulate in words.
4. **We find the help we need.** God heals us as we pray for ourselves and each other. James, Jesus' brother, tells us, "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed" (James 5:16). Trying to fix our problems ourselves is a fruitless effort, so we take them to the One who can. God created the universe and everything in it. Help is waiting for us if we'll humble ourselves and ask for it (Psalm 121:1-8).

Praise and Prayer Requests

Ralph Prince: pray that his 2 year old cousin Rory's new medication for kidney disease works. If it does not work, she will need a kidney transplant.

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.

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 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

Congratulations!

Adriana Moreta and Zach Angelo were engaged December 2nd. Keep them in prayer as they begin planning their new life together.

New Years Eve Game Night

All Greenbank members and friends are invited to the New Years Eve Game Night, Sunday December 31, 8pm to Midnight in the church Fellowship Hall. Attendees should bring snacks and games. Contact Chrissi Steiner with any questions.

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.

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 return your registration form to 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 24th. 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.

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=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWVjd1djNpQT09>

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 – taking a break through the end of the year

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: 175 Contribution: \$4,359 Weekly Average: \$5,491 Weekly Budget: \$5,540