



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, June 2, 2024

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

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

The Power of Forgiveness: Jesus and Peter

Forgiveness is a cornerstone of the Christian faith, exemplified powerfully in the relationship between Jesus and Peter. This relationship offers profound lessons on the transformative power of forgiveness. Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, famously denied knowing Jesus three times during His arrest (Luke 22:61-62). This denial fulfilled Jesus' prophecy, made during the Last Supper, that Peter would disown Him before the rooster crowed. Peter's subsequent guilt and sorrow were overwhelming, as he "wept bitterly" (Luke 22:62).

Following His resurrection, Jesus sought out Peter for a crucial conversation by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:15-19). Rather than condemning Peter, Jesus asked him three times if he loved Him, countering Peter's three denials. Each time Peter affirmed his love, Jesus responded with a command to care for His followers, symbolizing Peter's forgiveness, and reaffirmation.

This interaction highlights key aspects of forgiveness:

1. **Unconditional Love:** Jesus took the initiative to forgive, showing that true forgiveness is proactive and rooted in unconditional love.
2. **Focus on the Offender's Heart:** Jesus addressed Peter's heart, emphasizing love and commitment rather than past mistakes.
3. **Renewal and Empowerment:** Forgiveness allowed Peter a new beginning, empowering him to become a pivotal leader in the early church.

For Christians today, this story teaches vital lessons:

- **Initiate Forgiveness:** Like Jesus, believers should take the first step in forgiving others, irrespective of the offense.
- **Heal through Forgiveness:** Forgiveness can heal personal wounds and bring inner peace, even if full reconciliation isn't possible.
- **Empower Through Forgiveness:** By forgiving, Christians can help others realize their potential and encourage their growth.

The story of Jesus and Peter illustrates that forgiveness heals wounds, brings peace, and transforms lives, embodying the boundless grace central to the Christian faith. **As followers of Christ, we are challenged to extend this same forgiveness to others, reflecting the love and mercy we have received.**

Domingo Reyes

Praise and Prayer Requests

High School and College Graduates: may they trust in God to guide them as they move on to their next stage in life.

Gifty Opoku: pray for God's healing.

Angelica Maisuh: pray for peace and God's direction in her life.

Alethia Jones: pray for Elaine Sirgon in hospital and Loretta Reynolds whose aunt passed away.

Patty Conway: pray for Joyce R., Richard R., Cathy S., Cathy M., Eli, Noah and Leck.

Cathy Servas: pray for healing of her right knee and pray for her friend Richard and his sick mother.

Virginia Clark: pray for the Clarks and their extended family who are experiencing a challenging season.

Marlin & Marcia Johnson: Marcia's grandmother passed away recently. Marlin is out of the hospital, continue to keep him in prayer.

Dawn Dorrell: having eye surgery next week.

Barbara Wallace: continue prayers for great grandson, Waylon Wallace.

Sick and Shut In: pray for all members who are battling cancer, covid and other serious medical issues and those who are unable to attend due to illness or 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](http://www.greenbankcoc.org) page on our website www.greenbankcoc.org.

Announcements and Events

Men-Save the Date

There will be a Men's Breakfast Saturday, June 15 at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. It is designed to strengthen the bond of fellowship among the men of this congregation and to discuss and promote the role of Christian men in God's service. All men interested in attending should sign up on the bulletin board with your name and number of guests so we can know how to plan. The tentative theme is "We are Won."

Food Pantry Volunteer Dinner

In appreciation of 12 years of service to the pantry ministry there will be a dinner for all volunteers and their spouses Saturday, June 22nd at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. See Sue Maynard or Wilma Blue if you have questions.

Camp Manatawny Special Contribution Update

The Camp Board thanks Greenbank for our yearly donation. Due to your generosity, we were able to send \$1,300 to Camp. Thanks to all who contributed. See the camp website if you are interested in becoming an individual member.

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.

Men – 3rd Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Mark Ray.

Youth – Thursdays @6:30pm at Greenbank – led by Eileen Hence

SMALL GROUPS

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

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

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: 157 Contribution: \$5,323 Weekly Average: \$5,423 Weekly Budget: \$5,435