



Volume 12, Issue 6

June 2023

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen Cont'd...	2
Christian Ed	2
Evangelism Task Force	3
Spotlight	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	5
Monthly Activities	5
Access Life	6
Access Life	7
Finance & Stewardship	8
Calendar	9
Fun Recipe!	10
Sermon Schedule	10
Prayer Shawl	11
Monthly Schedule	12



JUNE PASTOR'S PEN

"Milkshakes in Heaven"

She was only seven years of age. Susie (not her real name) was very cute and loved by her friends who took turns pushing her mobility cart down the long hallways of our church. Coffee fellowship for the adults was often interspersed with screams of delight coming from the hallway. My little friend had spina bifida but that did not stop her from smiling and laughing with her friends. Although she could not walk nor do so many of the things other children take for granted my little friend was happy and loved life. Periodically she had setbacks and would have to go to the hospital for treatment. I visited her as one of the ministers from her church. She smiled as we talked and after a little visit I left. Very shortly after that visit my little friend died. Now, I had to break the news to another little girl that her friend had died and that she would no longer be able to push her down our church hallways in her mobility cart. Her friend was my daughter who was about the same age. "God," I prayed, "give me words of wisdom and comfort that I might gently tell my daughter of her friend's death." It was Sunday morning and we were on our way home from church. I secured her seatbelt in the backseat and climbed behind the wheel. I called my daughter by name saying that I had something very important to share with her. "Yes," daddy said the voice from the back seat. I continued to pray, "Lord, give me the right words." "Sweetheart, your friend Susie well she died last evening. "I waited for the crying to start but there was silence instead. Then my little girl in the backseat began asking a series of questions. "Daddy, do you suppose Susie is sleeping now?" "Yes," I replied she could very well be sleeping." "Daddy, does God have beds in heaven?" "Yes, dear I suppose he does and they will be very comfortable beds." Still there were no sounds of crying but more questions. "Daddy, when Susie wakes up will she be able to run and play?" "Yes, sweetheart she will be able to run and play because in heaven God takes away all suffering and pain." "Daddy, do you suppose Susie is playing right now?" "Yes, dear she probably is playing right now." Then there was silence for a moment and I thought to myself what do I say when the crying starts and my little girl asks why her friend had to die. There were no sniffs just another question. "Daddy?" "Yes, dear." "Daddy, does God have milkshakes in heaven?" Where do you go in the Bible for an answer to that one? I don't recall the Bible every mentioning milkshakes but I replied in the affirmative anyway." "Yes, dear if you like milkshakes God will have the best milkshakes that you have ever tasted!" Another brief moment of silence and then my little girl replied,

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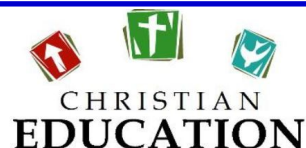
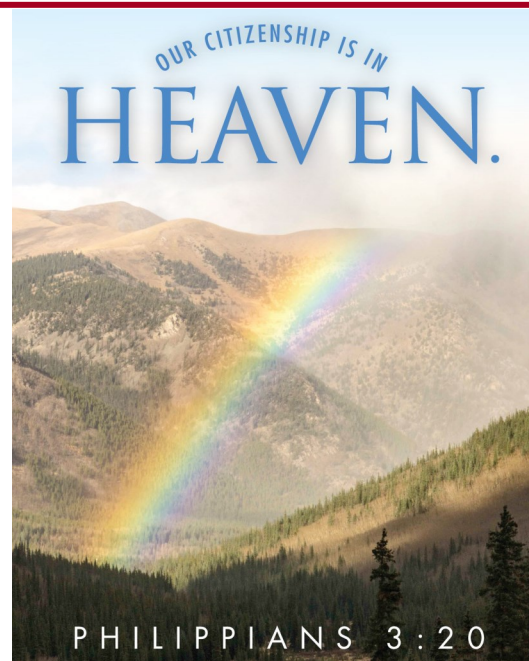


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"Daddy, heaven sounds like a pretty good place." If anyone heard sobs they probably came from me as I thanked the good Lord for allowing my seven year old to minister to me. "Yes dear God has milkshakes in heaven now let's go home."

Where she came up with that question I will never know. Perhaps she and Susie had talked about how good milkshakes were and if God has milk shakes, comfortable beds and allows crippled little girls to walk then heaven sounds like a pretty good place. Out of the mouths of babes!

Blessings,
Pastor John Fraser



By Elder Linda Pool

Parents Are Not Miracle Workers

Our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.
--1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, NIV

As parents, we may be tempted to try to do God's work and to neglect the very responsibilities that He has given to us. He asks us to take care of the possible and to trust Him for the impossible.

How often we have tried to convict our loved ones of their sin and their need of the Savior, to make them want God, to make them read their Bibles and to pray and to live for him.

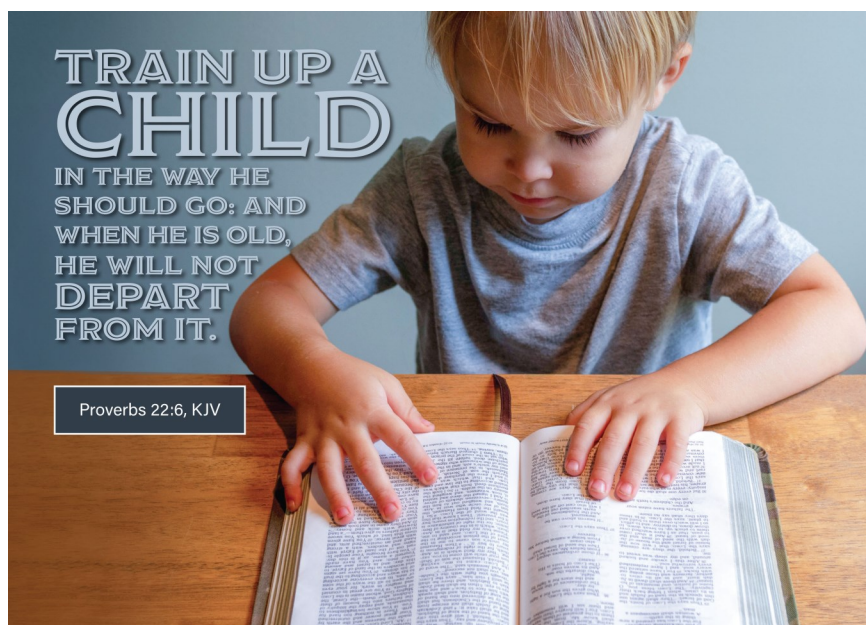
But our responsibility is to minister lovingly to the immediate needs of our families, whether it is by providing a happy home, preparing a good meal and washing clothes or by offering words of encouragement, love, and appreciation.

And our responsibility is to pray.

God will do His part. Salvation and love for God, the willingness to come under His authority, and the longing to do His will joyfully are miracles of grace. And miracles are in God's department, not ours.

Prayer for the Day: *Father, I confess that I have tried in my own strength to bring my loved ones into a relationship with Christ. I relinquish them to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and ask You to guide me as I live out the Gospel among them.*

From: Letters from Ruth's Attic
By Ruth Bell Graham



Evangelism Task Force

“Sharing the Good Things of God”

“If you come with us, we will share with you whatever good things the Lord gives us.” Numbers 10:32

After a long period of camping at Sinai, Israel was finally ready to head into the wilderness. Each family group marched in line, with the cloud of the Lord leading them. As they set out, Moses asked his brother-in-law Hobab to come with them. Hobab was familiar with the desert, and the Israelites would benefit from his skills as a guide.

Moses’ invitation wasn’t made just for what Hobab could do, but also for what Israel could share with him. Moses said, “Come along, ‘for the Lord has promised good things to Israel.’” Moses knew that God would bless Israel, and he wanted Hobab to experience that. In this way Moses was inviting Hobab to join in the spiritual inheritance of Israel.

Sometimes we resist sharing our faith because we feel like we’re pushing something on someone else. But when we share the good news of Jesus Christ, we are calling others to come along and experience God’s grace and love. God calls us to keep sharing his good news and love with others always. Moses promised Hobab, “We will share with you whatever good things the Lord gives us.” Sharing the good things of God is always a part of our living with God.

Whom could you invite to come along on the journey of grace and faith? A friend or relative? God’s grace is too good to keep to ourselves. Let’s share it.

Lord God, may we be faithful to share your good gifts—your love, peace, forgiveness, and joy. Give us courage to invite others into life with you. Amen.

by Tom Groelsema “TodayDevotion.com”

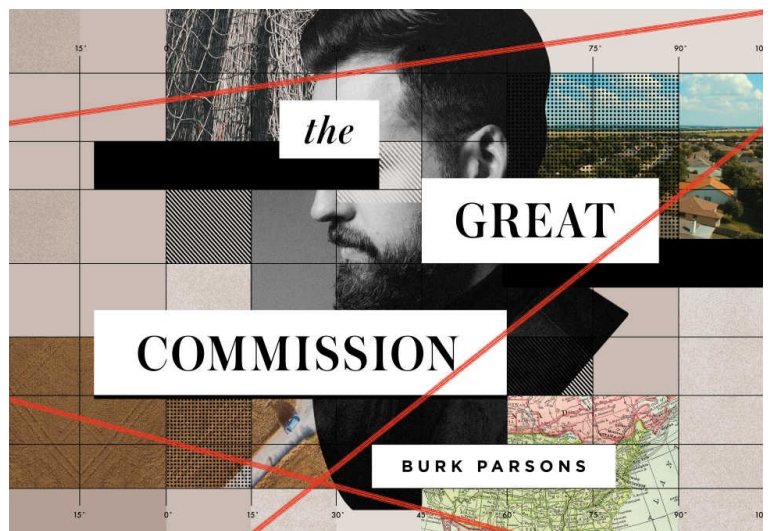
“We are setting out for the place of which the Lord said, ‘I will give it to you.’ Come with us, and we will do good to you, for the Lord has promised good to Israel.”

Numbers 10:29 ESV

The Great Commission Sunday School Begins Sunday, June 11th at 9:00am

The Mission of God

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave His people the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. This is a significant task, yet it is one the Holy Spirit enables us to accomplish as we rest in the authority of Christ over all things. In this series, Dr. Burk Parsons walks us through every phase of the Great Commission, carefully examining how Christ calls us to fulfill the Great Commission in our homes, our churches, our communities, and to the ends of the earth.



Who's in the spotlight?

Lou and Barb Conn

Lou and Barbara Conn live in The Plantation, Leesburg. They met on Christmas Day of 1956, courted for three and a half years during their college years, and married on June 11, 1960. They were both born and raised in Northeastern PA, five miles apart from each other but graduated from different rival high schools. Lou was involved in athletics and Barb loved acting in school plays. Lou is an only child and Barbara had one brother, eight years her senior. Lou has a BS. in Business Administration from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA and an MS. in Education plus another 30 graduate hours in Educational Administration from SUNY college at Cortland. Barbara graduated from W-B Business College, has 45 credit hours at the undergraduate level and worked for a time for the NSA in Fort Mead, Maryland.

At heart, Lou is an entrepreneur, having started his own fast-food restaurant at the age of 23 in NE PA. However, at the urging of his wife, affirming that business demands detracted from the proper raising of a growing family, they sold the business and moved to Binghamton, NY, where he began teaching. Eventually he became an Executive Director of a governmental socio-educational program. Once this experimental program came to an end, he became General Manager of a petroleum service company in Binghamton.

The enticement to own his own business never left him and he decided to become a franchise owner of a personnel placement service in Syracuse, NY. Barbara worked along with Lou and became a very successful sales counselor in the industry, having won many awards as a top producer. Many years later they relocated back to NE PA and opened their own independent office. Barbara concentrated on office personnel placement and Lou added vocational counseling to his placement of sales personnel.

The Conn's have three children; Lou is the national Sales Manager of Giusto Imported Italian products; Joe manages several Southeastern states as a District Manager for Alani Purified Water; Tara is Editorial Director of Leadership Briefings, a monthly newsletter of Business Management Daily. She also is the author and publisher of four Christian romance novels. And we can't forget their five grandchildren and three great grandchildren, two of which are twin boys!

Their relationship with the Lord began on December 4th, 1976, when they were both Born Again as they attended a Christian Businessmen's Breakfast, having been invited by one of their employees. They were both born, raised, married, and practiced their Catholic Faith until that point, but eventually left Catholicism and over the years became most comfortable practicing their faith in Episcopal and Anglican Churches. They retired to Florida in 2011, a year after Lou's parents passed and are now elated to have found Grace EPC which is so close to their home, and also offers the benefit of a small group right here in the Plantation. With such great pastors, leadership, members, and church attendees, they can't see anything but great days ahead for the church.

The Conn's were both very active in Christian ministry. Barb's highlight was being the President of a Women's ministry in NE PA and in fact is still ministering to several younger women in four different states. Lou's highlights were being the Prayer Chairperson for a Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Crusade in NE PA, and also hosting a 30-minute radio broadcast sponsored by the Christian men's ministry in Syracuse, NY.

Lou ran until he was 72 and once in Florida he began swimming in the summer months. They both walked regularly until aching bodies stymied their efforts. Lou loves to fly fish for big mouth bass and was able to do that with his father until his dad was 90. Shortly he will be doing that with his son, Lou, right here on Lake Harris. Barb loves to prepare her favorite Italian dishes and is very enthusiastic about her weekly canasta card club, but both are most happy when dining out together at their favorite restaurants. Their favorite Bible verses are Isaiah 40:31 for Barb and Romans 8:28 for Lou.





Marcia Duncan—2nd
 Herb Nicklas—3rd
 Roy Pauley—4th
 Dave Hoffmeyer—5th
 David Spiegel—5th
 Mandy Klee—7th
 Georgia McWilliams—7th
 Kathleen Bittle—8th
 Nancy Slaughter—9th
 Shirley Robertson—22nd
 Susy Quiggle—23rd
 Bill Frakes—24th
 Henry Miazga—28th



Wally Jr & Mandy Klee—2nd
 Ed & Cynthia Smith—4th
 Dick & Beverly Sapp—5th
 Tom & Gail Edelman—7th
 Jeff & Denise Carpenter—21st
 Jim & Jane Wertley—24th
 Joel & Kim Cleveland—26th
 Les & Connie Deatherage—27th
 David & Lynda Spiegel—28th



Pastor John Fraser
 Pastor Rick Rosenkrans
 Jack Homoney (2023)
 Wally Klee, Sr. (2023)
 Marvin Pool (2023)
 Shelby Reed (2024)
 Al Rode, Jr. (2023)
 Judy Scott (2025)
 Jim Teets (2024)



Last
 Friday
 Women's
 Breakfast

June 30th at 8:30am
 at Wolfy's in Leesburg



Prayer Time with Pastor John

June 1st & 15th
 at 1:00pm

Tell us how we can pray for you!
 GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com
 (352) 552-0052.



The Widow's
 Luncheon
 will be on

Thursday, June 15th

at Naples Restaurant on 441

Please let Sue Hammond know if you are attending by
 Sunday, June 11th

Making a Journey with Jesus

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person fails, the other can reach out and help...Three are even better, for a triple braided cord is not easily broken.” Ecclesiastes 2:9-10, 12

Equipping

In April they went to co-lead a Trauma Healing Group Facilitator Equipping. One of the things they love is that the participants they train and certify can minister in ways that they never could. As their trainers and mentors, they are privileged to walk a small portion of that road with them. One lady “G” ministers with her husband in Asia, in a devastated area. “G” lost a sister in the devastation and now she wants to return and minister especially to women, who, like her, have lost so much.

Here are a few of their testimonies:

“I walked this road myself and by doing so I realized that I am not the only one who experiences such things, now I can help others. My ministry has mostly been with children. Now I will adapt to help adults as well. Praise the Lord! I wanted to help others and now, thanks to this course, I have a plan, all the lessons and the structure of how to do it. Thank you!”

As a person who has received personal trauma, this was very helpful to me. I’ve learned to be patient. The people I could not forgive, I forgave. Others also need help.”

“I learned how to help others. I was able to see some of my hurts and things I was ashamed of; it helped me to heal. I learned some new things, twice practiced to lead a group, met new people, and got new ideas for my ministry.”

Our hope and prayer is that “G” and other participants will begin to minister the love and healing of Christ to those who are hurting in their areas and beyond.

Please pray for the trauma healing program and join them in celebrating the praises that they have a great staff and care team and that the new class did great!





Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Update!!

Shelby recently attended a workshop for the shoeboxes and they gave suggestions on what to pack and not pack. They wanted to remind everyone to **NOT** pack things like:

Toothpaste

Liquid glues

Balls with jell or liquid in them

****basically anything with liquid or gel they ask to please NOT pack**

Fantastic news!! Lake County packed and shipped 50,845 boxes last year!! It was the largest amount than any other county in Florida!! We were a part of that!!! WOO HOO!!!! Go Lake County!!!

There are shoeboxes available in the narthex if you would like to take one to pack, or you can bring your items up and put them in the large donation box in the narthex. There is a list of suggested items and also brochures with how to pack in the lobby. We will have a packing day in the fall with a date to be determined.

Let's try to double what we did last year!!!

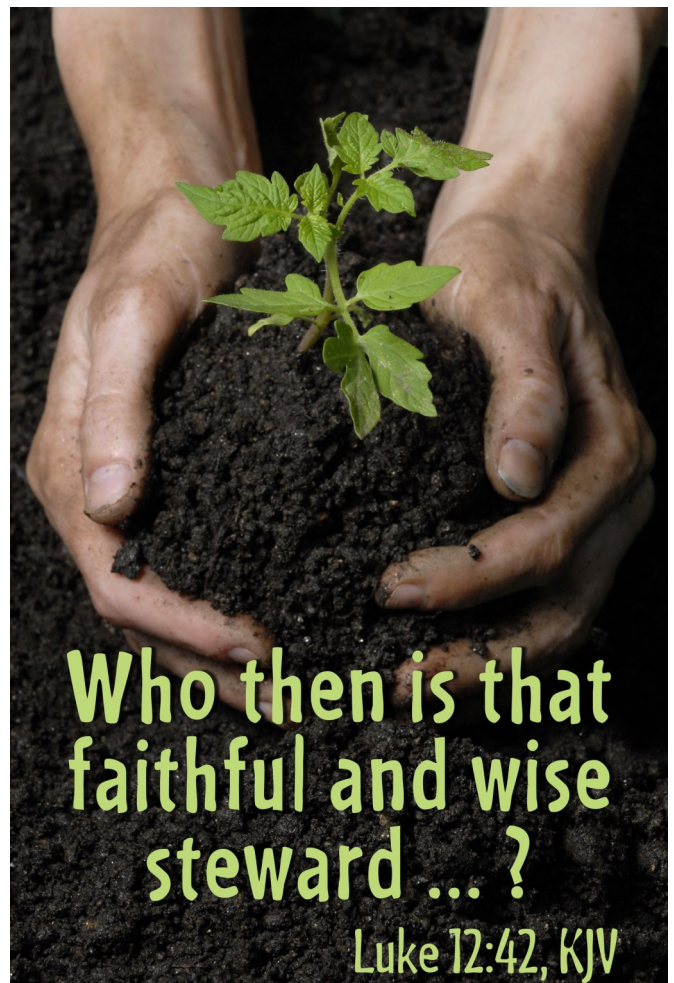


As Charlie Brown would say, “Good grief”! At the end of this month this whole year will be half gone. But, since I tend to be an optimist, I am thinking that we still have the other half in which to make up for any shortcomings of the past half. Imagine that, another year in our life and in the history of our church. So, how will that be remembered? Well, since we are instructed by our Lord to do certain things, we should be constantly thinking about those and asking ourselves whether He is satisfied with how we are doing in fulfilling those commands.

I recently read a paper by R.C. Sproul on Stewardship. In it he wrote about our responsibility to provide stewardship over God’s creation and presented references to reinforce the fact that our Lord gave to us, in the garden, dominion over His creation. Then I was thinking about stewardship from an individual perspective and how that fit with the command that came later to spread the gospel. It seems that stewardship covers a very broad scope. For example, it is incumbent on us as a church to be good stewards of that over which He has given us control. I think that means that we must ensure that we use those resources wisely and always with the fixed goal of expanding His kingdom. So, while we plan for the usual needs of our facilities, we must always ensure that we continue supporting other missions and missionaries, while also providing ongoing support of our presbytery in their efforts to establish congregations in other areas. Then we must support our own growth and plan for that. I did some research into our attendance since our two churches united into one almost 7 years ago. Okay, I asked Mandy to get me the numbers. But, the good news is that in spite of the downturn due to Covid in 2020, our attendance has been growing and our average so far this season is over 100. But that number will trend down with the departure of our part-timers and vacationers. Still, we are seeing growth in our attendance and that is exactly what our Lord has told us to do. So, how do we ensure that can and will continue? Well, I keep coming back to the property that the church owns debt free and facing US27. We should be actively planning for a larger facility on that site and praying for His guidance in how we accomplish this. I have written about this before but remember that we must be the ones to pave the way for those to follow. And there will be thousands following as all the planned new housing becomes a reality.

Also, remember that it only takes 100 of us giving \$10,000 each for the next 2 years to ensure a new facility with no debt. Also remember that there is an offer of matching funds. So, up to a point your gifts this year to the Building Fund will be doubled.

See you for Worship!
Dave Hoffmeyer, Stewardship & Finance



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p> <p>Roy Pauley Birthday</p> <p>Ed & Cynthia Smith Anniversary</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Highlands</p> <p>Small Group</p> <p>Dave Hoffmeyer David Spiegel Birthday</p> <p>Dick & Beverly Sapp Anniversary</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>2:00pm Villages Small Group</p> <p>4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Mandy Klee Georgia McWilliams Birthday</p> <p>Tom & Gail Edelman</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Finance Committee Meeting</p> <p>10:00am Chrismons Class</p> <p>10:30am Plantation Small Group</p> <p>Kathleen Birtle Birthday</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00pm Movies with a Message</p> <p>Nancy Slaughter Birthday</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Highlands</p> <p>Small Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:30am Widow's Luncheon</p> <p>1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Highlands</p> <p>Small Group</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2:00pm Villages Small Group</p> <p>4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Jeff & Denise Carpenter Anniversary</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30am Plantation Small Group</p> <p>Shirley Robertson Birthday</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Susy Quiggle Birthday</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bill Frakes Birthday</p> <p>Jim & Jane Wertley Anniversary</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Highlands</p> <p>Small Group</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Harbor</p> <p>Small Group</p> <p>Joel & Kim Cleveland Anniversary</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study</p> <p>Les & Connie Deatherage Anniversary</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Henry Miazga Birthday</p> <p>David & Lynda Spiegel Anniversary</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30am Women's Breakfast</p>	

Lime Pie Dip

Ingredients:

14 oz Sweetened Condensed Milk
8 oz Cream Cheese
1 tsp Lime Zest
1/2 cup Freshly Squeezed Lime Juice (about 3-4 limes)
1/4 tsp salt

Instructions: Mix all ingredients together until smooth. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour. Serve with cinnamon graham crackers.



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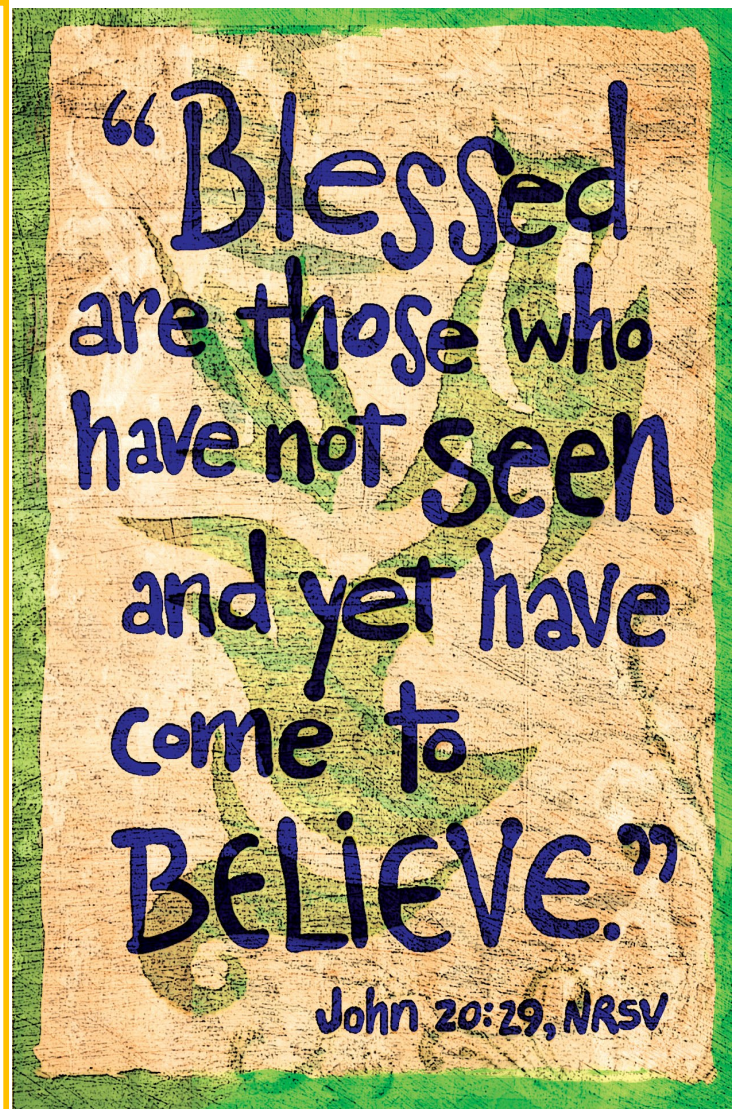
June Sermon Schedule

June 4th Blessed Trinity

June 11th Jude 4: Gratitude & Praise

June 18th Building a Dad

June 25th Inscribed on His Palms





KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Father's Day

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
John 15:12*

My father delivered milk in a horse and wagon. Summers in Canada were great, but those winters were very hard, but that's how he took care of my sisters and myself.

Our 4 year old daughter needed to learn about travel. One day her daddy took her on a train ride to Toronto, while there they rode the subway, then returned home on the bus. It was then she decided to become a travel agent. Lesson learned.

Likewise our Heavenly Father watches over us and teaches us through His Word the Bible.

We can honor our heavenly Father by watching out for one another, loving one another and praying for one another which is our Prayer Shawl Mission .

Please let us know of anyone who needs love and encouragement. Our Prayer Shawls are for everyone, congregation and neighbors. Request cards are in the back of the pew chairs. Please fill one out and put it in the offering plate if you know of a need.



Happy Father's Day Dads!

Blessings from your Prayer Shawl Committee,

Mary Arnold, Jan Bass, Molly Bod, Alice Crotty, Connie Deatherage, Gail Edelman, Peggy Ernest, Jill Fraser, Jean Howse-Henke, Susy Quiggle, Lois Schielke, Judy Scott, Shirley Robertson

**June 14th is Flag Day!
Fly Your Flags!!**





Worship: 700 S. 9th St., Leesburg, FL

Mailing: P. O. Box 490001

Leesburg, FL 34749

352-552-0052

Email: GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com

Website: GraceEPC.church

Like us on Facebook: [Grace EPC—Leesburg](#)

All activities are tentative and subject to change.

SUNDAYS:

- 9:00 AM ~ Sunday School
- 9:45 AM ~ Fellowship Time
- 10:30 AM ~ Worship Service

MONDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ GriefShare (5/8—7/31)
- 6:30 PM ~ Royal Highlands Small Group
- 6:30 PM ~ Royal Harbor Small Group (6/26)

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- ~ NO Session Meeting for June

WEDNESDAYS:

- ~ NO Women's Bible Study ~ On break for summer
- 2:30 PM ~ Villages Small Group (6/7 & 6/21)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (6/8)
- 10:00 AM ~ Chrismons Class (6/8)
- 10:30 AM ~ Plantation Small Group (6/8 & 6/22)
- 11:30 AM ~ Widow's Luncheon (6/15)
- 1:00 PM ~ Prayer Time with Pastor John (6/1 & 6/15)

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (6/30)
- 6:00 PM ~ Movies with a Message (6/9)