



GRACE NOTES



Volume 10, Issue 4

April 2021

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APRIL PASTOR'S PEN

“See You In September”

Beloved Members and Friends of Grace EPC,

One of my favorite songs growing up was, “See You In September.” I actually heard it for the first time at Kennywood, an amusement park in Pittsburgh, sung by a local group called the Tempos. Now, there’s some trivia for you! The most popular version was by The Happenings in 1966. It envisions a lonely summer with his true love heading for the hills or some other unknown location. After the Easter service, Ann and I will be heading for the hills of Thomasville, GA, which is actually about as flat as Florida. I trust that none of us will be lonely this summer, but there are several thoughts I’d like to leave you with for the next five months, until I see you again in worship September 5:

I know that many of you travel in the summer. If you head up I-75 and you can take a detour to Thomasville, we would love to see you. If you’re there on a Sunday, their worship services are at 8:30 (contemporary) and 11:00 (traditional), with Sunday School in between. I would love to introduce you and “show you off” to that sister congregation.


As I’ve written before, summer is not a time to take a vacation from your spiritual growth. I’m not sure what the plans will be for Sunday School and small groups, but if they are available, please be sure to attend. I thank God for Pastors Rick and John and their leadership in worship. Be sure to share with them specific thoughts from their sermons for which you are thankful and how they’ve helped in your walk with Christ.



Please pray for me during this time. I will, once again, be working full-time and spending long hours in the office. I’m not used to that! Pray that God will give me endurance, make that office time profitable and use my preaching in the lives of that wonderful group of fellow Christians. Interestingly, Dr. Tim Filston, the church’s pastor, asked if I would preach the book of Ephesians, “The Queen of the Epistles.” It’s the same book that will be preached at Grace!

Continue to pray that God would reveal His will to our Session for the future of Grace. As I said in my March 21 sermon, I'm already well past my "expiration date" as an EPC pastor and I believe God has already chosen someone to lead the church into the future. Pray that we all will seek His good, acceptable and perfect will and that He will reveal it to us clearly.

Big love in Christ,
Pastor Dave



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By Elder Linda Pool



HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK

If the struggle you're facing is slowly replacing
Your hope with despair,
Or the process is long and you're losing your song in the night,
You can be sure
That the Lord has Hand on you, safe and secure,
He will never abandon you; you are His treasure
And He finds his pleasure in you.
He who began a good work in you,
He who began a good work in you
Will be faithful to complete it.
He'll be faithful to complete it.
He who started the work
Will be faithful to complete it in you.
----Jon Mohr

Sometimes we have a song in the night. We can sing with joy and thankfulness. Our hearts are full. We feel God's blessings. At other times, we lose that song. The night turns to a starless void. Our struggle, where we once held out hope, has caused us to despair. We have been patient, so patient, but the process has been so long that we just can't sing anymore. The weight is too heavy to carry.

Our difficulty may cause us to question God's love and protection. we feel as though we have been forgotten, lost somewhere in the darkness. But God never abandons us. We are like priceless pearls to Him---"his treasure."

God never forgets us, never gives up on us. Again and again he offers His fiery love to burn away impurities in our hearts and to draw us back to Himself. As we come to know and rely on God's love, we find our fears and doubts replaced with hope. Our struggles dim as we bask in His great love.

God never stops working, and He finds great pleasure in us. No matter how difficult the struggle seems today, remember that God has His hand on you---that means you are safe and secure, no matter how dark the night.

*By day the LORD directs His love, at night His song is with me--a prayer to the God of my life. **PSALM 42:8***

PRAYER: Ask the Lord to give you a song in the night. Pray that you will sense His hand of safety and security, knowing that you are His greatest treasure.

From: "*Songs 4 Worship presents Open the Eyes of My Heart*"



Happy Easter! Let there be joy both within our church and throughout the land. He is risen! Let us celebrate the very essence of our faith, the fact that Jesus, after suffering through horrific torture and death, rose on the third day in order to cleanse us of our unrighteousness and thus ensure our eternal life with Him. When I think about this, I seem to think mostly about the fact that He knew what was in store for Him and yet gave Himself up for it. Then, I look around and wonder whether He will still do that today.

But the important thing for us is that we are charged with sharing this good news with others. Therefore, we must do whatever we can to get the attention of those that are either not Christian or those that are Christian in name only so we can share that story and what it can mean in their lives.

Growth is what we as a church are about. We must find ways to attract people to us. My limited experience indicates that you cannot minister to people, you cannot teach the message of the Bible if you do not have their attention. So, we must provide facilities, messaging, and outreach that will bring the unchurched into the body of Christ. We must provide enough space that those newer members of our group will feel comfortable and provide funding to ensure we are supporting the spread of Christ's message to the world. Currently we should be looking at ways to expand the occupancy of our facility or for ways to expand those facilities. In addition, we should be considering our support of missions. Currently we allot about 12% of our budget for mission's support. I think we should be able to do much better than that. Here's a thought: when giving above your usual amounts; designate some or all of that for missions. Those that give tend to receive more with which to give. Remember that our "handbook" directs that giving is just as much an act of worship as attending services or singing praises.

See you in Church!
Dave Hoffmeyer for the
Stewardship & Finance Team





Dennis Engquist - 4th
Les Deatherage - 5th
Harvey Pierce - 6th
Jim Teets - 6th
Barbara Ward - 6th
Paul McWilliams - 7th
Peach Pierce - 11th
Beth Gitchell - 20th
John Romano - 20th
John Fraser - 21st
Lois Schielke - 21st
Zoe Shearer - 21st
Debbie Reed - 26th
Beverly Sapp - 26th



Don & Zoe Shearer - 2nd
Marvin & Linda Pool - 3rd
Jon & Mary Arnold - 17th
Bob & Lois Schielke - 20th

Marvin and Shirley Robertson would like to give a big thank you to all of our amazing Prayer Warriors at Grace!

**“Dear Grace Friends, Thank you so much for your prayers and cards of condolence in our recent loss. God Bless!
 ~Marvin & Shirley Robertson”**



The Last Friday Women’s Breakfast is scheduled for **April 30th at 8:30am** at **Blooms in Leesburg**



John Fraser
Larry Hochhalter
Jack Homoney
Wally Klee, Sr.
Kris Ogden
Marvin Pool
Shelby Reed
Al Rode, Jr.
Rick Rosenkrans
Jim Teets



All-Church Prayer

April 8th & 22nd
 1:00PM - 2:00PM

We would love to hear all of your prayer requests. You can email them to GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com or call the office at (352) 552-0052.



The Widow’s Luncheon is scheduled for **Thursday, April 15th** at 11:30am.

It will be at the Crown & Shield Restaurant in Royal Highlands

Please let Sue know if you are attending by Sunday, April 11th.



In the Spotlight

Phil and Debbie Beahm

Phil and Debbie Beahm live Lake Harris Landing in Leesburg.

Phil was born in Ellwood City, PA and raised on a farm in Renfrew which is about 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. He graduated Clarion University in 1975. Debbie was born in Butler, PA and grew up in a little town of Prospect, graduated Slippery Rock High. They both still have extensive families around all the time.

After school and a few jobs, they both ended up at MSA and worked near each other. They became friends and things went on from there! They married in 1978 and moved onto Phil's family farm where they built a log house and they still live there.

They remain near a lot of family and enjoy seeing them often. They have 4 children, 3 girls and one son. Their kids are adopted. They are all siblings and they were older, so they got a head start on grandkids, 10 of them and now 7 greats.

Phil was laid off from MSA and then went to ARMCO steel where he stayed till retirement in 2017. He has continued to work the family farm. Debbie quit MSA when the kids came and kept the books for a little store. Later she worked part time HVAC and in home health care and full time on the farm. their summers are still filled with the farm and family.

Debbie has a great aunt and uncle who settled in Ocala in the early 60's and her grandparents and great grandparents would come to Ocala to visit.

When her parents and grandparents retired, they wintered there. Then several other family members and friends came. They started to call that part of Ocala, "Little Prospect". Phil and Debbie didn't come down until after her dad passed, they would drive her mother down.

Phil's "big hobby" is the farm and anything tractors. Debbie quilts, though not much anymore. Debbie loves anything in or near the water. She kayaks with the kids.

Grace has been very friendly and a caring church. They look forward to being part of it every year. They enjoy keeping in touch through the internet.



The family of Jack Williams would like to express their thanks...

“The family of Jack Williams would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, visits and cards during his illness and passing. We are so blessed to be associated with such a loving and caring church.

~Blessings to you all and thank you again.”

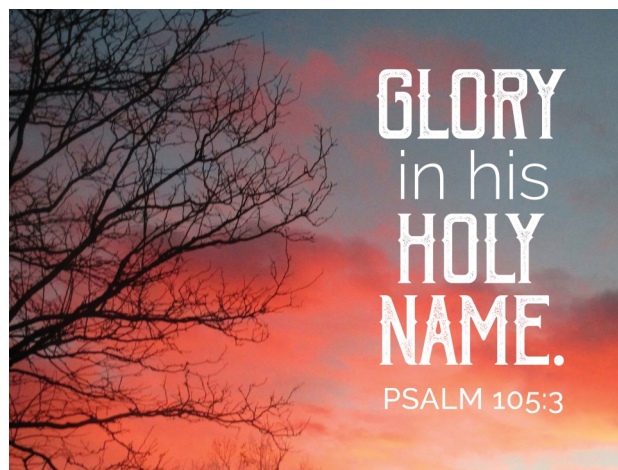
Praying in His Name

By Elder Pat Byrnes

No investigation into matters of prayer would be complete without a discussion of what it means to pray in the Name of Jesus. I am perhaps presumptuous about addressing it in just a few paragraphs... but I'll try.

The verses containing Jesus teaching about praying in His Name are John 14:12-14... *“Truly, truly I say unto you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in My name, I will do it.”*

Considering the context of the scene, here we have Jesus and his disciples celebrating the Passover feast known by Christians as the last supper. When we read the first three gospel accounts of the events of this evening, it is easy to come away with the impression that it was over fairly quickly with the highlights being the betrayal of Judas, the breaking of the bread, and sharing of the cup. Matthew and Mark cover the entire dinner in just 10 verses and Luke in just 25. John gives us a much more complete picture of what took place during what was a rather lengthy (up to four hours traditionally) celebration event. John starts at Chapter 14 with the many mansions teaching and going to *prepare a place for you* and by inference all who will believe in Him because of the missionary work to come. This is the main context of the teaching. John's record of the evening goes on to the end of chapter 17... an entire five chapters! Interestingly, within those five chapters we find no mention of the breaking of bread and sharing the cup but rather lots of theology. In addition to the “many mansions” teaching, we have the lesson of the foot washing servant, we have the metaphor of the vine and abiding in Jesus to bear much fruit, we have the promise of the “helper” to come (the Holy Spirit), we have lots of prophecy about the divisions between the secular world and the Christian world, we have the great high priestly prayer of chapter 17, and lots more. We don't get the exact great commission recorded by Matthew (28:19), but if we take these five chapters as a whole, they clearly are intended to explain the mission of the disciples after Christ leaves them. It is in this context that we consider the lifeline, the communication system as it were... prayer. And in this context the identification of prayer as the means to carry out the will and purpose of the mission.



There should be no mystery about this because Jesus makes it very clear. First he tells his disciples they will do greater works than even He did but that in order for that to come to pass they must continually ask through prayer. Notice why Jesus will do whatever is asked in His Name... *that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

The most succinct explanation I have found is in the footnotes of the ESV study Bible. It reads... “Praying in Jesus’ name means praying in a way consistent with his character and his will. It also means coming to God in the authority of Jesus. Probably both senses are intended here.” Looking at John 17:2, we learn that God the Father has given God the Son authority over all flesh (translated mankind in other texts). Likewise, as part of the great commission verses of Matthew 28, we read Christ’s own words that *“all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* So, indeed, praying in His name is praying with the blessing of the highest authority in the universe. **We are the King’s ambassadors carrying out the King’s agenda with the King’s authority!** It is about doing greater works for the glorification of the Father.

Marv Rosenthal summarized it nicely in a recent article in “Zion’s Fire” magazine. He writes... “This promise does not mean that if a man petitions God for whatever he desires and then tacks on the phrase, “In Jesus’ name,” that somehow all requests will be granted. To pray in Jesus’ name is not some kind of spiritual rabbit’s foot. And sadly, this is what many of us interpret it to mean. To pray in Jesus’ name means to pray in harmony with God’s character – to make petitions which bring glory to God, to request things which are unselfish and consistent with His Word. The most effective prayers are those fervently voiced by men and women who know God and His Word and pray for His will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven. This is praying in His Name.”

Continued on next page

Cont'd from previous page...

A second verse containing this teaching is within this five chapter group, in John 16:24-26. In continuing His preparatory teaching to the disciples, He reminds them that things will change once He is gone to the Father. The whole script of the Godly walk will change from obedience to the law to building the kingdom to the glory of God.

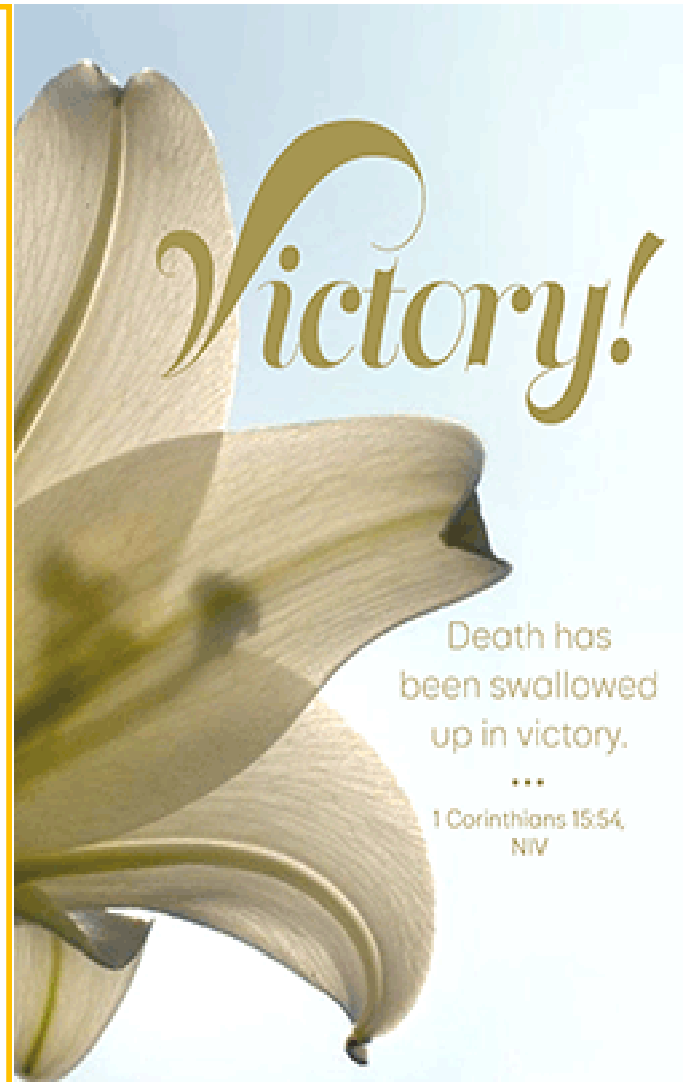
He tells them that *Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.* Clearly, the disciples (just like most of us) hadn't yet understood the bigger picture. We see them responding in 16:29-30 that they now understand and believe that Jesus knows all things and indeed has come from God. Soon the Holy Spirit will infuse them with power and even deeper understanding and the rest is history!

So, what about us? This is all interesting but how do we apply it in our Christian walk today? Last month we contemplated praying about the things in God's revealed will. We should seek these things (I don't have space to repeat them) and pray in Jesus name that they be brought about to the glory of the Father. I made the statement several articles ago that we can't retire from being a Christian. As Paul put it, set your eyes on things above for yourself, your family, those who come across your path and use the conduit Jesus taught about... pray about those things in the strong name of Jesus.





April in Ecclesiastes! Living Life Backward

- Apr 1st** Maundy Thursday (6:30pm)
- Apr 4th** From Dust to Glory (3:16-22 Easter)
- Apr 11th** Two Are Better Than One (4:1-16)
- Apr 18th** God Is the One You Must Fear (5:1-7)
- Apr 26th** The Mystery of Money (5:8 - 6:12)



April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 † Easter Sunday 10:00am Worship Dennis Engquist Birthday</p>	<p>5 1:00pm Women's Bible Study in Tea Room Bob Schielke 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke Les Deatherage Birthday</p>	<p>6 8:00am Men's Bible Study Perkins Harvey Pierce Jim Teets Barbara Ward Birthday</p>	<p>7 10:00am SG & BS Committee Mtg 4:30pm Choir Paul McWilliams Birthday</p>	<p>1 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service </p>	<p>2 Good Friday  Don & Zoe Shearer Anniversary</p>	<p>3 Marvin & Linda Pool Anniversary</p>
<p>11 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School Peach Pierce Birthday</p>	<p>12 1:00pm Women's Bible Study in Tea Room Bob Schielke 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke 6:30pm Klee Monday Small Group</p>	<p>13 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Perkins 6:30pm Klee Tuesday Small Group</p>	<p>14 4:30pm Choir 2:00pm Villages Small Group</p>	<p>15 11:30am Widow's Luncheon</p>	<p>16 Jon & Mary Arnold Anniversary</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School</p>	<p>19 1:00pm Women's Bible Study in Tea Room Bob Schielke 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke</p>	<p>20 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Session Meeting Beth Gitchell John Romano Birthday Bob & Lois Schielke Anniversary</p>	<p>21 4:30pm Choir John Fraser Lois Schielke Zoe Shearer Birthday</p>	<p>22 1:00-2:00 All Church Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School</p>	<p>26 1:00pm Women's Bible Study in Tea Room Bob Schielke 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke 6:30pm Klee Monday Grp Debbie Reed Beverly Sapp Birthday</p>	<p>27 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Perkins 6:30pm Klee Tuesday Small Group</p>	<p>28 4:30pm Choir 2:00pm Villages Small Group</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast</p>	

How to Stay Safe in the World Today

(You can't argue with this logic)

Here is the secret to staying safe in the world today:

- Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
- Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
- Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents happen to pedestrians.
- Avoid traveling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
- Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT ...

You will be pleased to learn .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

THEREFORE...

Logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is in church!

And the percentage of deaths in Bible study is even less!

SO... for SAFETY'S sake:

**Attend Church
and read your Bible.**

**IT COULD SAVE
YOUR LIFE!**

Amen



If you want to join the Safety Team, but weren't able to attend the last meeting, please let Mandy know and we will keep you posted on when the next meeting will be!



Right Now Counts Forever

John and I attended the Ligonier Conference recently, joining together with about 3,000 other believers. It was a family reunion with family you wanted to be with as some quipped! We were reminded that all we say and do should be for the Lord; our words and actions count forever, hence the theme — Right Now Counts Forever!

We are living in a post Christian world where there is now no respect for Christian belief or morality — that is now considered hateful. God calls us to trust Him and to remember that the gospel is truth in the midst of lies and despair. So we are being tested—to be people who stand for truth- to be uncompromising but compassionate, to trust God completely, to do all for His glory. If people accuse us of being hateful, then let us be accused of being too happy for life eternal, too hopeful, too joyful. Many say we have life and then we die; no, in the midst of death we live (Luther). Let us say with the apostle Paul, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...” (Romans 1:16)

Easter’s celebration proclaims that Christ is risen! He has conquered death! Let’s not be ashamed to proclaim this truth in all seasons. “For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Forever and ever, Hallelujah” (words from Hallelujah chorus).

Blessings and Happy Easter
Grace Church!
Jill Fraser



Christian Care Center Baby Bottle Boomerang

and the results are in...

\$2,030.96 RAISED!!!





Working Remotely in a New Role....an update from James and Monique Arritt

Monique and I are now working remotely as co-Language Program Directors of Sarawak. This means we have eight families that we are serving and leading, some in Malaysia, some, like us, trying to get back there. One of the joys of the job has been connecting with these colleagues. We have people from Korea, Spain, Malaysia, Canada, Argentina, Panama, Bolivia, Australia, and the US, so we often meet at night, after the kids have gone to bed. Our role is to help these teams navigate through personal and professional challenges. Sometimes the responsibility is heavy. At the same time, however, we see God's hand in preparing us for this role, through wisdom acquired from failures and successes. We covet your prayers as we serve in this new way.

Partnership Update

As we have been planning (as best we can with the pandemic) our return to Malaysia, we now realize that our Wycliffe ministry budget needs revision. We invite you to pray with us about this matter. We will provide more details when they become available.

Prayer Requests

- For a possibility to help a refugee ministry in Texas develop a Trauma Healing ministry.
- For wisdom as we serve and lead our colleagues in Malaysia.
- For our spiritual vitality - that we would love and serve through the overflow of God in us.
- For our marriage, parenting, and that the kids' hearts would be soft toward the Spirit.
- For provision for the ministry budget shortfall.

Clothed in Hope needs connections...a note from Amy Bardi

This sweet baby boy was born to Charity, who graduated from the Clothed in Hope skills training program and she now helps with the Business Grant program. He will be named in the following weeks per cultural custom. He was born on 3/14 with Down syndrome, and he has Complex Congenital Heart Disease, along with 2 heart valve defects. **Baby Boy** is currently in the ICU at a public hospital in Lusaka. We have been told that this baby needs heart surgery, but that it isn't performed in Zambia. The only option we have is to find a US-based (or other international) hospital who would be willing to perform heart surgery for Baby Boy. If he doesn't have the surgery, it is unlikely that he will live much past his 1st birthday, which is absolutely devastating.

Here's Where YOU Come In:

You have connections, and Charity and her Baby Boy need them.

We are trying every possible way to get Baby Boy the heart surgery that he needs to save his life.

- Do you know a pediatric heart surgeon?
- Do you know of an international surgery program?
- Do you work at a hospital and have access to people who would know the process for cases like this?
- Do you have other ideas?

I am in touch with a handful of people, trying to work this from all angles at multiple hospitals, hoping that we'll find the one needle in the haystack that will be Baby Boy's ticket for life-saving heart surgery. But we haven't arrived there just yet. It's possible that we'll transfer him to a private facility, but the bureaucracy is complicated. It's possible that Baby Boy will remain in the ICU for a long time. It's possible that funds will be needed down the road, but that's not what we need right now.

We need a connection.

We need a way for this precious Baby Boy to get his surgery.





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

Mailing: P. O. Box 490001

Leesburg, FL 34749

352-552-0052

Rev. Dr. Dave Dorst

Email: graceepclesburg@gmail.com

Website: Graceepchurch.org

Like us on Facebook: Grace EPC

All activities are tentative and subject to change.

SUNDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Worship
- 11:15 AM ~ Sunday School ***No Sunday School on 4/4*

MONDAYS:

- 1:00 PM ~ Women's Bible Study ~ Tea Room
- 6:30 PM ~ Small Group Bible Study ~ Schielke
- 6:30 PM ~ Klee Monday Small Group (4/12 & 4/26)

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (4/20)
- 6:30 PM ~ Klee Tuesday Small Group (4/13 & 4/27)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Small Group & Bible Study Committee Meeting (4/7)
- 2:00 PM ~ Villages Small Group (4/14 & 4/28)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Practice

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (4/8)
- 10:30 AM ~ Small Group Bible Study - Plantation (4/8)
- 11:30 AM ~ Widow's Luncheon (4/15) ~ Crown & Shield Restaurant in Royal Highlands
- 1:00 PM ~ All Church Prayer - (4/8 & 4/22)

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (4/30) at Blooms in Leesburg