



GRACE NOTES



Volume 10, Issue 6

June 2021

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen cont'd	2
Christian Education	2
Stewardship & Finance	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Elders	4
Monthly Activities	4
Spotlight	5
Bible Studies	6
Bible Studies Cont'd	7
Sermon Schedule	7
Calendar	8
Admin Notes & FB Marketplace	9
Missions ShoeBox Program	10
Prayer Shawl Ministry	11
Important Dates	12

Pastor's Pen "Memorial Day"

As you read this you either are preparing to celebrate "Memorial Day 2021" or you have already celebrated it. Everyone seems to celebrate this day in a different way. I remember being with my grandparents who lived in upstate New York when I was very young and they always made a huge deal out of it. They would prepare days ahead by purchasing special flowers and decorations, then on that day would travel to all of the families' grave sites. And while they planted the flowers and placed decorations on each grave they would also share with me many stories about each person as we went.

During my pastorate in PA, our local VFW Post annually would have a parade and open house on "Memorial Day." The parade was always a big deal with all of our local school bands, Scout troops, Fire Companies, local politicians and military consisting of actively serving along with veterans. There were also cars, motorcycles, and possibly a horse, etc., always ending with a large meal supplied free by the VFW Post. When the parade would conclude at the VFW Post, the school bands would play, and many speakers would speak. I would be asked to speak and do the invocation and did so for many years. I believe that our 35th president, John F. Kennedy, himself a decorated veteran, said it very well when he offered this memorable statement: "*A nation reveals itself not just by the men it produces, but also, by the men it remembers.*" Yes, "Memorial Day" is a day that we remember all of those who have gone on before us, but especially those brave men and women that gave their lives throughout the history of our country to protect us from danger and harm.

"To Them We Owe" by Don Nielson

Happened today, and in the past;
Sacrifice made, for ours to last.

Wives to widows, families torn;
Gave their lives, for them we mourn.

Gone forever, souls are lost;
Freedom comes, with this cost.

Enjoy the life, they did preserve;
Fate they suffered, did not deserve.

On this day, lest we forget;
To them we owe, our life in debt.



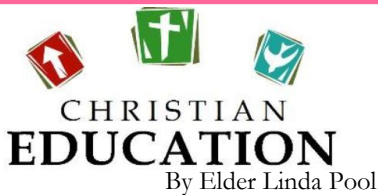
Jesus said in the gospel of John 15:12-13; *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*

I know that Memorial Day isn't a Christian holiday, but we all should be very thankful to all people that have given the ultimate sacrifice for our sake, to enjoy the freedoms that we cherish. And yes, freedom isn't free! Throughout history many people have died for others. And I truly believe that "Jesus" was the ultimate sacrifice who gave it all for us.

Also in John's Gospel (11:25-26) Jesus said to Martha, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

We should always remember all of those that have gone on before us, and especially never take for granted the sacrifice of our Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ! Freedom isn't free, especially freedom from sin!

In Christ, Pastor Rick Rosenkrans



HOLY AND ANOINTED ONE

Jesus, Jesus,
Holy and Anointed One, Jesus,
Jesus, Jesus,
Risen and Exalted One, Jesus.
Your name is like honey on my lips,
Your Spirit like water to my soul.
Your Word is a lamp unto my feet.
Jesus I love You, I love You.
--John Barnett

What joy to sing the name of Jesus. His is a name above all names, a name so sweet it is like honey on our lips. The Bible promises that one day, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10,11).

To say His name should remind us of His great love for us---a love so great that He came from heaven to become like us in order to die for us. He sends His Holy Spirit into our thirsty souls to revive them and make them strong. He gives His Word, the Bible, to be a lamp to our feet, showing us just enough of the path ahead to step with confidence.

When the disciple Thomas believed after having seen and touched His risen Lord, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). We cannot see our Lord Jesus, and yet have believed in Him. Why? The sweetness of His name on our lips, the refreshment of the Spirit in our lives, the guidance of the Word on our steps.

Yes, Lord, we love you.

I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart: I will glorify your name forever. Psalm 86:12

Prayer: Meditate on the sweetness of Jesus' name. Thank Him for the refreshment of his Holy Spirit. Praise Him for His Word that provides a lamp to your feet.

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

**"Holy,
holy, holy
is the Lord God
Almighty,
who was,
and is, and is
to come."**

Revelation 4:8



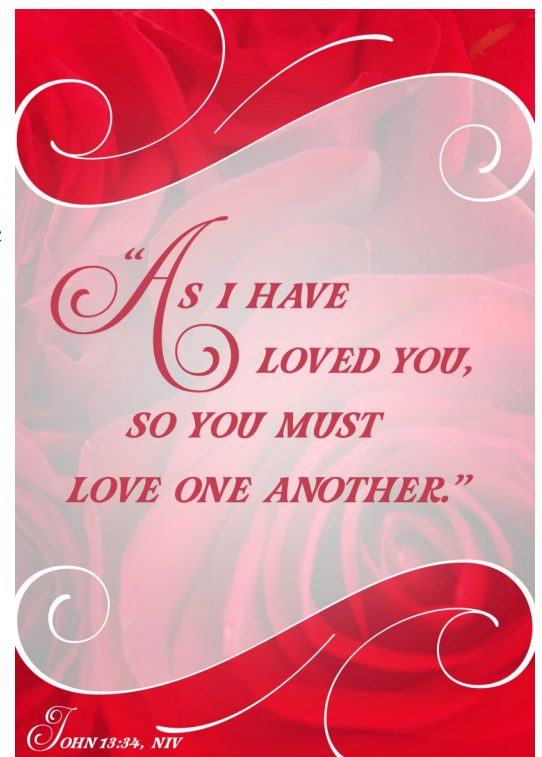
Let us think about sharing. Jesus gave us a commandment He said was the most important. That is to love. First, we must love Him, but we must also love one another. The way we as Christians do this is through our worship and our sharing. Sharing is about giving and serving and is part of our stewardship. We should feel it a privilege to give back for God's use a portion of what He has given to us. We have all heard about time, talents, and possessions, but it is how we use these things that determine the depth of our commitment to our Lord. I remember a quote by Billy Graham who said, "give me five minutes with a person's checkbook and I will tell you where their heart is". Nowadays, he would probably have to look on-line at their credit card statements, but we can still understand that what he was saying is that we each find ways to support those issues, programs, or activities that we care about the most. Much of the time that support is in the form of money, but we also provide our time and talents. That is what we should be doing for our church, since we are all telling ourselves and each other how much we love God.

Sharing with the church can take many forms and involves participating in not just the regular worship services but also the other activities hosted or supported by the church. Sharing can run the gambit from attending a Bible study class to volunteering to help with trimming the shrubbery or even displaying a license plate with the name of the church. Just like your home, there is always something that needs someone to share their time, talents, or treasure so your church can continue providing a welcoming place for you and others.

I remind each of you that every dollar you receive, regardless of its source, will be invested somewhere. That can be housing, transportation, entertainment, etc. But what better return can be earned than that earned by giving to God. Remember that our God has provided most of us with "more than enough" with an expectation that we would use our excess to help those that are less fortunate. That use could also include funding to allow us to extend our outreach to others in the community who are looking for a church home. I am still thinking about and praying for the time when our church will be endowed with enough income to meet all our basic needs so that our giving can be used for missions both here in the community and even around the world.

New news for those that don't know, we have our new website up and running. Check out www.graceepc.church. Note the ".church". This is a newer extension that is now being used on the web. While the old website is still there it will be changed in the near future such that inquiries to there will be redirected to the new site. All of this is due to the knowledge that came with our Administrative Assistant. Yea Mandy!

In the Spirit of Christ,
Dave Hoffmeyer for the
Stewardship & Finance Committee





Herb Nicklas - 3rd
Dave Hoffmeyer - 5th
David Spiegel - 5th
Mandy Klee - 7th
Georgia McWilliams - 7th
Kathleen Bittle - 8th
Nancy Slaughter - 9th
Shirley Robertson - 22nd
Bill Frakes - 24th
Henry Miazga - 28th
Daisy Hoffman - 29th



Wally Jr & Mandy Klee - 2nd
Dick & Beverly Sapp - 5th
Tom & Gail Edelman - 7th
Marvin & Judy Gertz - 18th
Jim & Jane Wertley - 24th
Les & Connie Deatherage - 27th
David & Lynda Spiegel - 28th

Portable OxyGo Free!

Our dear Grace friend, Linda Williams, has a portable OxyGo Oxygen Concentrator that she would love to give to someone who can use it. It is helpful for someone who needs oxygen to be able to go out of their home easier. It has a battery charger, car adapter, and the manual. It is much easier than carrying around an oxygen tank. Please let Mandy know if you are interested or know someone who it could benefit.



The Last Friday Women's Breakfast
is scheduled for
June 25th at 8:30am
at Blooms in Leesburg



All-Church Prayer

June 3rd & 17th
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.



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



The Widow's Group will be breaking for summer. The next luncheon will be in September. Have a great summer and safe travels!

Dave and Pat Ghen



Pat was born in Greensburg PA and lived in Irwin Pa which is an exit on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Her father died in a construction accident when she was 7. Her Mother raised her and her brother as a single Mom. She graduated from North Huntington High School in 1957. Youth Fellowship, Girl Scouts, Rainbow Girls, and volunteering at the local hospital, as a candy striper, were all very important to her.

After High School Pat went to Burroughs Office Machine School in Pittsburgh and then to work at Duquesne Light as a key punch operator. Kids today have no idea what that is. In Florida, persons close to thirty or so know about hanging chads caused by the keypunch machine!

Dave was born in Pittsburgh and lived in Squirrel Hill until moving to Irwin in 10th grade. He was raised in the United Presbyterian Church of North America. During the summers he participated in the United Presbyterian Caravanning Program teaching Bible School Classes including at a Winnebago Shelter Home for orphans in Nebraska. After High School Dave went to Muskingum College in Ohio majoring in Physics and Math.

Pat and Dave Graduated from North Huntington High School in 1957. Their first date was the senior prom. They were married December 26, 1960, a month before Dave graduated from Muskingum College. They moved to State College Pa. where Dave finished his MS at Penn State.

Dave's working years began in 1962. His work in underwater acoustics, torpedo development and submarine tactical development lasted about 40 years. He worked closely with the submarine force for almost 40 years many of which he spent on the Submarine Squadron Staff. His favorite memories include numerous rides on submarines doing acoustic tests and tactical exercises.

Pat and Dave have been active in Presbyterian churches since they married. Many of our longest friendships are a result of couples group activities including the New England Synod Mariner's. Pat was involved with UPW and Dave was usually serving on the Session or involved with Presbytery Committees.

A major memory included Dave as an Elder at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Groton, CT. In 1968 when the Confession of 1967 was ratified he participated in discussions of the disaster it would create and the concern that that the PCUSA Denomination would come apart. It took a long time and we are glad to be at an EPC church.

Pat was a stay at home Mom while their children Ronald and Deborah were in school. As they became close to finishing high school she went to work for the Groton branch of the University of New Haven's book store. It was a 2 person operation and they worked out of a basement area selling text books to Adult Education students. (It was amazing how often the adult students would say, but the Professor never used the book!!)

Dave's Mother and Father had retired to Redington Beach Florida and so most of their vacations were spent there. It was an easy decision to retire there in 1999 because it is a beautiful piece of Heaven. In 2016 they moved to Orlando to be next to their daughter. 2020 brought Debbie and then Dave and Pat to the Villages. They joined a group from Faith Church in St. Pete who came to Leesburg to see Pastor John, they joined them from their home in Orlando and learned of Grace EPC.

They are settled now and starting to enjoy the things the Villages have to offer.



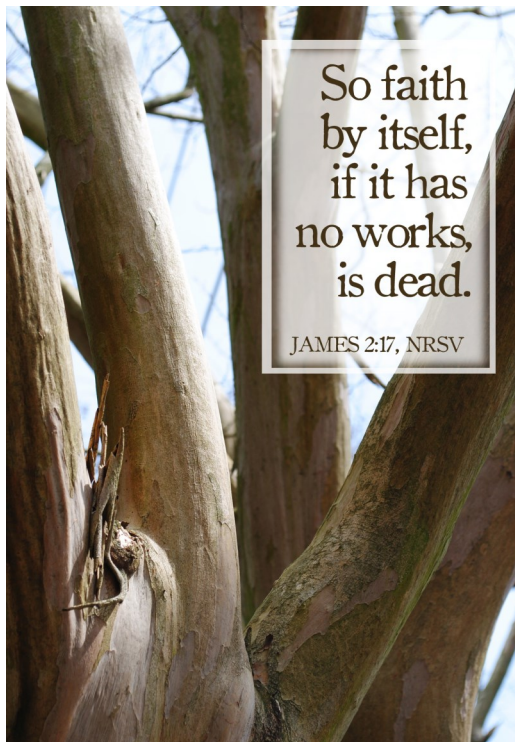
Be the Answer to Your Prayers

By Elder Pat Byrnes

Could it be? Is it possible that you could be the answer to at least some of your prayers?

Open your Bible to James chapter 2 starting at verse 14 and read the next several verses. This is the famous “*faith without works is dead*” segment. Down through the centuries since the reformation, this segment has caused a lot of consternation. Martin Luther is said to have wished James had never written it. The Roman Catholic Church has built a gospel of faith plus works directly from these verses. The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Galatians (1:6) refers to this sort of misguided teaching as “*a different gospel*” and admonishes them for falling prey to it.

But Paul is very clear that works do matter. He has provided us with at least two great teachings on the matter of faith and works. (I have underlined the key phrases). The first is the well-known Ephesians 2:8-10. *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* Here we see works identified by Paul in two contexts... pre-salvation and post salvation. You can’t be saved by works but once you are, it is clear you are called to do works. The second is lesser known and found in Titus chapter 3 verses 1-8. Verse 5 begins in mid-sentence *“He saved us not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works”.* Again we see the pattern of the Ephesians teaching... you can’t get there by works but once you are there, it is clear you are called to do works.



So you may be wondering at this point what this has to do with answers to your prayers? Let’s dig into that James segment... verse 15 reads *“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?”* When we see such needs, we are compelled to pray for someone, something, somehow to come, to give aid, to provide relief. James is suggesting that we take it further to actually be the someone that somehow provides the something they need. When I was marketing director for a laboratory equipment supply company, I drew on an intra-company friendship to have scholastic grade microscopes sold to our kid’s Christian school at cost. Two months later that friend called me to inquire about not being paid. Talk about panic! I tossed and turned unable to sleep that night praying fervently for this invoice to somehow be paid. At about 3:00 in the morning when I fell still for a moment, I heard a voice in my head... more like a thought that I didn’t think. It was three words... “you pay it”. That was it! I was called to be the answer to my own prayer. Next morning, I got up early and wrote a check to the school for enough to pay the unpaid invoice plus a little extra along with a letter requesting they use the donation to pay my company for the microscopes. They did and in subsequent student assemblies raised up my company to the Lord for special blessings. Another amazing “coincidence” is that days before, I had deposited my annual bonus check which was more than enough to pay for the microscopes!

Continued on next page

Cont'd from previous page...

We don't know what works have been prepared for us that we should walk in them. Our stewardship goes further than the offering plate but includes our time, talents, and all the way to being the arms and legs to carry out God's plans. We can pray for needs we see like the Christian Care Center (or other such places) to be able to meet the special needs of the community. Such prayers are good and acceptable. James suggests that we go further and answer our own prayer by volunteering or at least making donations of clothing, food, or cash. We can pray for missionaries to be sent to spread the gospel and we can answer our own prayer by providing the means to send them. We can pray for the Lord to send someone to reach out to a neighbor with the Good News and we can step up and be that someone.

We can and should raise up fellow Grace members in prayer for loneliness, fellowship, etc. We can also be the answer to those prayers... sending letters, cards, making phone calls, even visiting, running errands, making meals and so on.

The Lord has already prepared good works that we should walk in them. So, yes for sure, pray. And when you pray, be open and ready to be or provide the answer.



June Sermon Series

The Christian's Wealth, Work, and Warfare

June 6th Remember Your Creator

June 13th Chosen By God

June 20th The Gifts That Keep On Giving

June 27th By Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone,
But Not Faith That Is Alone

Journey Through Ephesians



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study	2 4:30pm Choir Wally & Mandy Klee Anniversary	3 1:00pm All Church Prayer Meeting Herb Nicklas Birthday	4 5 Dave Hoffmeyer David Spiegel Birthdays Dick & Bev Sapp Anniversary	
6 Communion Sunday 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	7 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group Mandy Klee Georgia McWilliams Birthdays	8 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Kathleen Bittle Birthday	9 4:30pm Choir 2:00pm Villages Small Group Nancy Slaughter Birthday	10 10:00am Finance Committee Meeting 10:30am Plantation Small Group	11 12	
13 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	14 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Howey Monday Small Group	15 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 10:00am Session Meeting 6:30pm Howey Tuesday Small Group	16 4:30pm Choir	17 1:00pm All Church Prayer Meeting	18 19 Marvin & Judy Gertz Anniversary	
20 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	21 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	22 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Shirley Robertson Birthday	23 4:30pm Choir 2:00pm Villages Small Group	24 10:30am Plantation Small Group Bill Frakes Birthday Jim & Jane Wertley Anniversary	25 26 8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast	
27 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School Les & Connie Deatherage Anniversary	28 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Howey Monday Small Group Henry Miazga Birthday David & Lynda Spiegel Anniversary	29 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Howey Tuesday Small Group Daisy Hoffman Birthday	30 4:30pm Choir			

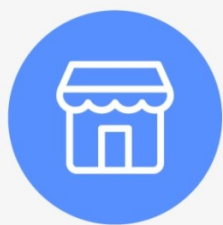
Notes from your friendly neighborhood Administrator...

Addresses: For our friends that are heading up north, or have already headed up north, please make sure Mandy knows that you've left so we can send you the newsletters while you are away. We will miss you and look forward to your return in the fall!



Photos for the Directory: We still have some friends, whom I do not have a photo for the directory and a few friends that I may need a new photo for the directory. Please make sure to either grab Mandy on a Sunday and she can take your photo, or if you have a nice photo you would like to email her, you can do that as well. Her email is GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com

New Website: Please be sure to check out our new website! It is GraceEPC.church (please be sure to notice that it does not end in .org anymore, but that it ends in .church “dot church”). The new website has all sorts of great information about Grace including ways to get involved, newsletters, calendars, and our mission partner information. Along with sermon video links! So much fun all in one place!!



Did you know???

Facebook Marketplace

Grace has it's own little “Thrift Shop” through FaceBook Marketplace. We have items that are donated and then sold through the Marketplace. All the proceeds go towards Ministries and Missions at Grace EPC. You do need to have Facebook in order to check it out for purchasing, but you don't need to have Facebook to donate items to be sold. Items that have been sold range from a wide variety of items such as furniture, cookware, dishes, décor, accessories, and even appliances. If you would like to know more, you can check in with Mandy.



SHARING GOOD NEWS,
GREAT JOY!

DEAR FRIEND,

Each shoebox you pack helps a local church around the world tell a child about Jesus, God's Greatest Gift. Many of them will grow in their faith and learn how to tell friends and family about Him through our discipleship program called The Greatest Journey.

In a new initiative, we are going island to island in the Pacific to take the Gospel to a half a million children over the next few years, as part of our commitment to "proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15, ESV).



In sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we are also sharing God's Word with dozens of unreached people groups and going to hard-to-reach places to make His Name known.

This has resulted in more than 2 million children making decisions for Christ and over 1,000 churches being started in one year! For example, there's now a church in a remote village in Namibia among the Himba unreached people group.

"Before we had never heard of Jesus," said Pastor Kuyelia, leader of the new church. "Now, we have abandoned witch doctors and seek God alone in prayer and worship."

We're thankful for all those who have faithfully prayed for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project. You can join us in packing shoeboxes so that more children in the remote corners of the world can hear the Good News of the Gospel. May God bless you.

—Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan's Purse



samaritanpurse.org/occ

View solicitation disclosure information for Samaritan's Purse online at samaritanpurse.org/disclosure.

Join with us as we partner with Samaritan's Purse for a mission project called Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Program. Check it out at the Missions Table or on the Bulletin Board in the narthex.

What's up with all those shoeboxes??



Honoring Our Father

A type of Father's Day has been celebrated in Europe from the early 16th century. It was usually celebrated on March 19th, as the feast day of St. Joseph, the father of Jesus. In Catholic traditions, Joseph is regarded as the patron saint of workers. He worked with his hands and traditionally has been known as a carpenter.

In America, Father's Day was celebrated for the first time in 1910. Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, was successful in her quest to establish this day honoring fathers.

Honoring our parents is important, in fact it is commanded that we honor our father and our mother— Exodus 20:12. Children owe their parents love, obedience, respect and helpfulness.

Most importantly we must remember to honor our Heavenly Father, every day. He will not fail us, disappoint us, hurt us. He has promised to remain faithful when we aren't. He never changes, He never breaks a promise or his word.

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions they change not;
 As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
 Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Blessings,
Jill Fraser





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

MONDAYS:

- 6:30 PM ~ Royal Highlands Small Group
- 6:30 PM ~ Howey Monday Small Group (6/14 & 6/28)

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (6/15)
- 6:30 PM ~ Howey Tuesday Small Group (6/15 & 6/29)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 2:00 PM ~ Villages Small Group (6/9 & 6/23)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Practice

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (6/10)
- 10:30 AM ~ Small Group Bible Study - Plantation (6/10 & 6/24)
- 1:00 PM ~ All Church Prayer - (6/3 & 6/17)

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (6/25) at Blooms in Leesburg