



Volume 10, Issue 11
November 2021

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen cont'd	2
Christmas Decorating & Choir	2
Stewardship & Finance	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Elders	4
Monthly Activities	4
Spotlight	5
Spotlight Cont'd	6
Bible Studies	6
Christian Ed	7
Calendar	8
Administrator Notes	9
Sermon Schedule	9
Missions	10
Prayer Shawl Ministry	11
Important Dates	12

NOVEMBER PASTOR'S PEN "My Sense of God's Future Calling"

Beloved Members and Friends of Grace EPC,

As Scripture says, "I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet," but I do want to share with you my sense of God's future calling for me at Grace EPC. Your Session had a "vision sharing" meeting this summer and concluded that God is calling us to build a new sanctuary on our property on Route 27. Our current facility does not have enough space for the growth that the Session foresees in the future.

At our last Session meeting, I told the Elders that I would be willing to continue as Pastor of the church until there is a new building. I also asked that there might be a time table attached to the fundraising process so that there is a concrete game plan in place. We obviously need to know whether there are adequate resources to provide for a new facility. I'm praying that we might unite behind this vision and see how God blesses us. You should look forward to communication from our Building Committee in the near future. I'm excited about the prospects!



Speaking of the future, I want to encourage you to consider obtaining copies of my New Testament devotional for 2022 for yourself and for your family members. This really was a labor of love for me over many years and I believe it will be my major contribution to the larger church. If you commit to doing the daily studies, you will become acquainted with all of the major, and most of the minor, themes of the New Testament. Each day gives an opportunity for prayer, in-depth Bible study and practical application of God's Word. I have purchased a number of copies directly from White Blackbird Books, the publisher. The two volumes sell on Amazon for \$50, but I am able to purchase them for \$35. I am not making any money from the sale of these books. My son Jonathan gets \$2.50 for every book purchased from Amazon (nothing from the direct from publisher sales), and he has yet to get rich! My great desire is for people to use this devotional.

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I have feedback from different people—teenagers, homemakers, business executives and two professional golfers, among many—that this study significantly deepened their relationship with the Lord. I pray the same for you. If you would like copies, please let either Mandy or me know. If you want to pay the \$35, that's fine, if not, you can have them free of charge.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am truly thankful for Grace EPC and for each one of you. God has been faithful to our church's name and has poured out His grace upon us. I rejoice and praise His name!

Big love in Jesus,
Pastor Dave



You are Cordially Invited

To a Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 21st after Worship Service! We will give thanks for faith, freedom, family, friends, and food together with a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Everyone is invited so invite a friend or neighbor to join us! They will not be disappointed.



Church Christmas Decorating

Join us as we look forward to celebrating Christmas!

Save the morning of November 27th to decorate our church. This year we are also asking for help with getting the poinsettias.

Come with your coffee at 9:00am and we will have some Donut King goodies for you!

Saturday, November 27th at 9:00am

Come Sing with Choir for Advent!

The choir is beginning work on music for the Advent season and welcomes all those who would like to join us.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00pm and warm-up is on Sunday mornings at 9:30am.



PSALM 98:4, NRSV

How often have I started with “good grief”, it is now November, and this year is almost gone. How time flies! But do you remember how time crawled when you were young? That next birthday or the next holiday just took forever. I read an article recently that explained this phenomenon. See, when you were 5, a year was 20% of your entire life. Think about this, the decade between age 10 and 20 was forever but think about that same amount of time between ages 50 and 60. Now consider that as our age increases those periods seem to accelerate. Why? I think it is because subconsciously we realize that instead of looking at time as a function of how long we have been here in God’s kingdom, we start looking at it as something to be embraced and enjoyed and as a larger part of that which we have left. Think about this, there will come a day for each of us that will represent 50% of the time we have left in this life and none of us knows when that day will be.

The opportunity to watch the wind blow through the trees, see the sun come up, laugh with a friend, or to do something special that will advance God’s kingdom will not be here forever. So, every moment we get to soak in life is ours to use in pursuit of our Lord’s path for us or to just squander.

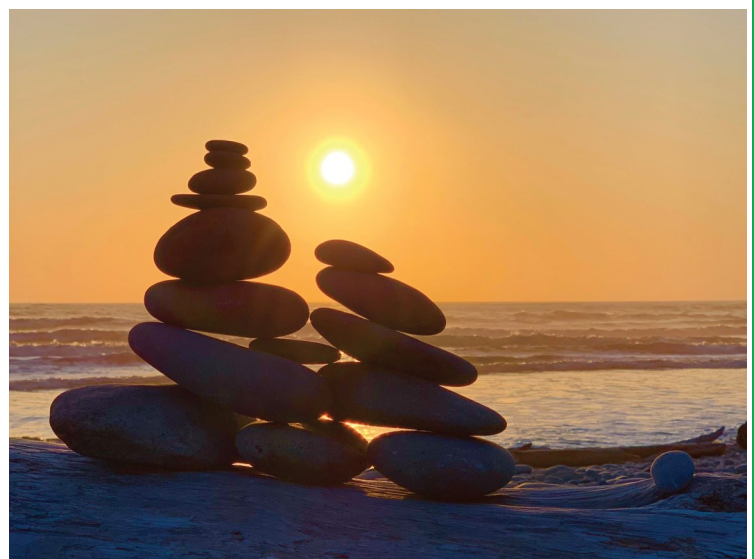
Remember, tomorrow will be a greater percentage of the time you have left to live, and so will each day after that. And each time you think of this, I hope you take a deep breath and just feel how lucky you are to be alive to enjoy this world that our Lord has provided. Then consider that the time you have to pursue God’s purpose for your life is getting shorter so you should be acting now in the pursuit of that purpose.

As a church we must continue our path of expansion over the next several years if we are to be successful in sharing the gospel. We have land fronting on US27 about 2 miles south of our current location and we need to be planning a new facility that will allow us to reach those that are going to populate the new developments planned immediately south of that. So, as you pray, ask what you can do to help with that plan.

For those of you not familiar with our location, it is on the corner of US27 and English Road, and I recommend that you take a short drive that way to see it. There is a sign on it so it is easy to find. Also, look at the development in that area. Lake Denham Estates is a new development on the west side of the highway and has already sold over 400 homes. Further south and to the east and west are thousands, yes thousands, more new homes in the beginning stages. We need to think like our major food retailers. They plan for and build stores where people **are going to be** not where they are.

How is the Lord telling you to help?

Dave Hoffmeyer, Stewardship & Finance





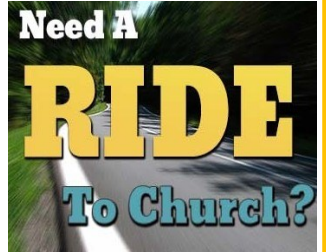
Bunny Menges - 14th
 Holly Gailey - 15th
 Rosie Hawthorne - 20th
 Jane Wertley - 20th
 Jack Homoney - 26th
 Bob Schielke - 29th
 Rupert Waite - 29th



Jim & Sandy Teets - 26th



Need a ride?
 Can we help
 you with
 anything?
 Let us know!



The Last Friday Women's Breakfast
 is scheduled for
November 26th at 8:30am



Pastor Dave Dorst
 Pastor John Fraser
 Pastor Rick Rosenkrans
 Larry Hochhalter (2021)
 Jack Homoney (2023)
 Wally Klee, Sr. (2023)
 Kris Ogden (2021)
 Marvin Pool (2023)
 Shelby Reed (2021)
 Al Rode, Jr. (2023)
 Jim Teets (2021)



**Prayer Time
 with
 Pastor John**

**November 4th & 18th
 at 1:00PM**

We would love to pray for you!
 GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com
 (352) 552-0052.



Widow's Luncheon
**Thursday,
 November 18th**
 11:30am at
 Takis Restaurant in Leesburg

Please let Jean or Sue know by Sunday, November 14th
 if you plan to attend.



In the
Spotlight

Dana & Pat Brigham

In 1975, Patricia and Dana were married, once in their Miami church by their Pastor with family, and the next day at Cedar Key, Florida, by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, along with Dana's best man from Ybor City, both of whom were born again believers.

On their honeymoon, Dana drove Patricia to Philadelphia to attend Sunday services at the Chapel for Westminster Theological Seminary, where ten years earlier Dana had found and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. From there, they drove to Mt. Celo in North Carolina and stood at 3,500 feet to pick a few daisies, where Dana first sang to Patricia the song about a girl named Daisy.

Patricia and Dana began studying theology with the Liberty Baptist University correspondence course, and attended Florida Bible College, built on a personal witness using a tract entitled, "Am I Going to Heaven?" (copies available), before becoming members of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and students at Knox Theological Seminary, which included a course in Evangelism Explosion using a tract entitled, "Do You Know?" (copies available).

As Seminary students, they confirmed that the family of man began with the creation of life and liberty for Adam and Eve, defined in 2 Corinthians 3:17. That life and liberty was lost as a result of Satan's dialectical materialism, disguised today as sanctification without justification. Satan's blasphemy caused the declaration of war recorded in Genesis 3:15. That war was divided along family lines between those born with a navel and those born again and listed in the Lamb's book of life. The war was "finished," as stated in John 19:30, elucidated by Luke 23:39-43, taught to Nicodemus in John 3:1-21, consistent with Romans 1:16-17, according to Ephesians 2:8-9, with the assurance stated in 1 John 5:13.

In 1635, Thomas Brigham, traveled from Bristol, England, to settle in Boston, Massachusetts, seeking the same lost life and liberty. Then, shortly after the Civil War of 1861-65, descendant Arthur Brigham left Boston and traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, where he met and married Eva G. Prince. They moved to the pioneer town of Miami, Florida, also seeking the same lost life and liberty during Civil War prejudice between North and South.

Dana's Father, E.F.P. Brigham, was born in Miami, and Eva became Florida's first woman Real Estate Broker. Dana's Mother, Marion, graduated from Wellesley College with Christian classmate Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. There, courses in Bible were mandatory and taught by "Bible Smith," later discovered to be a Communist.

Dana graduated from Northwestern University, enlisted in the Army, became a Korean veteran, and assisted his Father in a Miami courtroom successfully defending Bible reading in Florida classrooms.

While in law school at Temple University in Philadelphia, Dana found the truth in Acts 16:25-26. He then visited the National Headquarters of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and later became an OPC Youth Counselor, as he had previously been with the Presbyterian Church (USA) before finding the corruption of the church in America identified in Machen's book, "Christianity and Liberalism."

Patricia left the Miami office of the F.B.I. after 12 years to manage the law firm of Brigham & Brigham, where a plaque in the office entrance read, "This Building and the Work We Do Here are Dedicated to the Glory of God."

Later, Patricia and Dana traveled to Jerusalem with Brother Mark Cambron, who was a Jewish scholar and the Vice President of Florida Bible College. In Jerusalem, Mark privately took them to the pinnacle where they stood overlooking the Kidron Valley on the place identified in Matthew 4:5-6: "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple and saith unto him, if thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down..."

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Patricia studied and became a California Bar candidate and was a critical help with Dana's clients, including the only Watergate Defendant who was not convicted. The winning stratagem included the book, "Witness," by Whittaker Chambers, a former deep state Communist that surfaced as a witness for Christ and wrote his concerns for the lost life and liberty in his Foreword entitled, "Letter to My Children," which includes us.

With Patricia's help, Dana is a member of The Florida Bar Association, honored for 50 years in good standing. Among his many civil and criminal clients over that period of time to the present, Dana has served as General Counsel for Florida Bible College and Make It Clear Ministries.

Patricia's father died when she was only 14, and before her brother had become a Miami Motorcycle Police officer and later a Senior Captain with Delta Airlines flying internationally. Both Dana and Patricia are licensed pilots as well, and at the time of his retirement her brother purchased tickets for the entire family to travel with him on his last flight to Brussels. Just months after he retired, he was flying a single wing aircraft when the wing came off at 3,000 feet and his plane plummeted to the ground, killing him. As a tribute to him while at Knox Seminary, Patricia wrote the story of her witness to him and his salvation, which Knox asked permission to publish.

Our prayer is that everyone is reborn by God's justification through faith alone, consistent with Ephesians 2:8-9.



The Gospel vs. Theology ~ Just a Musing

By Elder Pat Byrnes

In the opening chapter to his letter to the Romans, Paul expresses his fervent desire to visit them because of his eagerness to "preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome" (verse 15). He then states the most fundamental truth in the whole New Testament in verse 16... "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek*". As his letter progresses, Paul spells out the content of the "good news" with several key snippets such as in chapter

3:21-25... "*But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the law and prophets bear witness to it – the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*" And again in chapter 10:9 "...because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved".

One of the things that I contemplate from time to time is the basic simplicity of this message pitted against the depth and complexity of the nature of God as revealed in the Bible as well as the deep mysteries that are hinted at but not revealed. Theology is the study of the nature of God. Such study is necessary and relevant because it helps us to be more deliberate and careful in our thought and speech about God. As we progress in our Christian walk, it profits us to move steadily from the Gospel message, taken to heart the day we are born again, to as deep as we can possibly go into theology.

The interesting thing about theology is that different people can read the same scriptures and come away with different interpretations and conclusions on lots of matters pertaining to God. Our Villagers small group is embarking on a study of the nature of free will in light of God's complete sovereignty and mankind's sin nature. It uses a teaching of a while ago by Dr. RC Sproul of Ligonier Ministries. Part of his approach was to highlight the theological differences that have been debated on this issue down through the history of the church. From some of these differences have come the many denominations that have evolved over the centuries. Listening to Dr. Sproul, I am persuaded that our reformed theology is closer to the scriptural mark than many others. But the Bible is not so totally clear (as it is with the Gospel) about every theological matter so we need to be as tolerant as possible with those differences. Not so with the gospel... just as Paul railed against "a different gospel" (Galatians 1:8) we should too when we see it.

But setting aside the truly apostate, it has been my experience that despite differences in aspects of theology, at the heart of the various denominations is the power of the gospel as Paul stated in Romans 1:16. I have been a Methodist, an Episcopalian, a Lutheran, a Presbyterian, and now a reformed Presbyterian. In each case, my family and I participated only because the gospel was recognized at that place for its power and reality and Christ was lifted up appropriately. As such, we had common ground with the membership even though the theology might be one way or another. Knowing what I now know and understand about theological matters, I might have questions for someone like Billy Graham whose theology was likely at variance with ours on some points.

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But can you think of anyone more prolific in reaching souls for Christ than Billy Graham! Every time I listen to one of his crusade messages, I am struck by his incessant, repetitive, hammering home of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit flows when the gospel is preached.

One of my favorite preachers/teachers today is Dr. David Jeremiah of Shadow Mountain Community Church outside of San Diego, California. I differ with him on several theological matters as well as prophecy interpretations. But God is using him powerfully and prolifically through his relentless focus on the basic gospel message to bring people to Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit flows when the gospel is preached.

So, what is the takeaway? First, I am eternally grateful for the basic gospel message shared with me by a mentor 50 years ago and the power of the Holy Spirit sealing it that day into my heart. I am also grateful for ongoing opportunities to dig and dig into scripture to learn all that is humanly possible about the nature of and matters of God. As we confront opportunities to share our faith with the unchurched, we can keep a lot of that in the back of our minds while we focus on the true conduit of power... the gospel of Christ. For sure, the Holy Spirit can use even an esoteric theological discussion to bring someone to pay attention to the gospel. But we can learn from the many prolific evangelists coming from many theological backgrounds that we can be confident in the gospel to achieve God's purposes. What He has spoken He will accomplish.



By Elder Linda Pool

IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE

In moments like these,
I sing out a song,
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord.

----David Graham

When is the best time to tell Jesus that we Love Him? It may be in moments when we contemplate His great love for us. At these times, it's as if the screen between now and eternity is lifted, and we get a glimpse of how Christ treasures us.

Think of Christ's love for you and sense His pleasure. Feel His desire to share His dreams with you and how He can't wait to show you heaven. Know that He wants to bless you and that He wishes you would hold still long enough for Him to give you all He desires. Imagine Him looking at your life and swelling with pride at all He's done. These are great moments to tell Jesus "I love you Lord!"

In contrast, our struggles present another great time to express our love for Christ. Everyone has unpleasant relationship issues, frustrating circumstances, and painful tragedies. That's when we should make a conscious choice to express our love for Jesus. Lifting our hands, like little children, we can say, "I love you, Lord." We experience freedom when we love Him even when life seems upside-down.

Sometimes Jesus has you by the hand and you can sense His smile. Other times He has you in His arms, carrying you through difficulties. In moments like these, or anytime in between, tell Jesus you love Him. He is always with you. Sing out a song of love to your Lord.

I love you, O Lord, my strength. PSALM 18:1

PRAYER: Let God examine your love for Him. He can show you why you have held back and help you overcome. The more you love the Lord, the easier it becomes. And the easier it becomes, the more you will love Him.

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



November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	2 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study	3 9:30am Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Choir Practice	4 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	8 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Howey Small Group	9 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Howey Small Group	10 9:30am Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Practice	11 10:00am Finance Committee Meeting 10:30am Plantation Small Group	12	13 9:00am Narnia Class
14 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School Bunny Menges Birthday	15 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group Holly Gailey Birthday	16 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 10:00am Session Meeting	17 9:30am Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Choir Practice	18 11:30am Widow's Luncheon 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John	19	20 9:00am Narnia Class Rosie Hawthorne Birthday Jane Wertley Birthday
21 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	22 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	23 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study	24 9:30am Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Practice	25 	26 8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast Jack Homoney Birthday Jim & Sandy Teets Anniversary	27 9:00am Church Christmas Decorating
28 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School 1st Sunday of Advent	29 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group Bob Schielke Birthday Rupert Waite Birthday	30 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study				

Notes from your friendly neighborhood Administrator...



We Need Your Help!!! We are in need of help in a variety of our ministries here at Grace EPC. Here are some areas we could use your help with. If you would like to learn more, please let Mandy know and she will help you get started!

Ushers: Helping to greet friends as they arrive as well as helping to collect the offering.

Transportation of donations: to locations such as Christian Care Center, Logos, or Salvation Army.

Organizing the Library: Better organization to help our friends find a book to read.

Safety Team: Getting our First Aid kits organized and a second one put together.

Media Team: Flipping the slides on Sunday, working the sound board or camera.

Newsletter Writer: Do you enjoy writing, would you like to try your hand at an article for the newsletter?

There are many behind the scenes things that we have found it would really be helpful to have more friends to help. These could be the details that most folks don't even think about...things such as collecting the attendance sheets and putting them back out and making sure they have pens, or clicking the remote control to move the screens to the next slide, or straightening the chairs and refilling the pockets. We are happy to teach anyone how to do anything you may feel called to do. God is not looking at your skill level, He is looking at your heart! Just like He knew David's heart, He knows your love for Grace and will call you where you are needed the most. All you have to do is listen to where He is calling you. ❤️

November Sermon Series

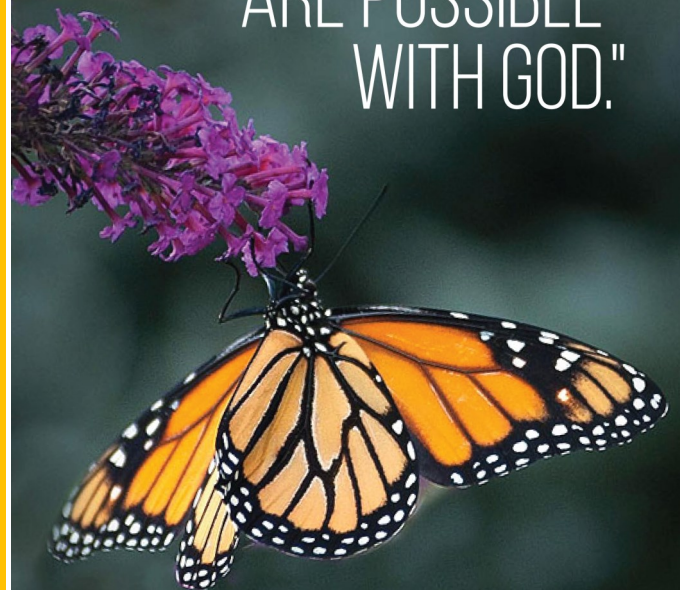
The Gospel in a Hurry

- Nov 7th The Test of Faith
- Nov 14th The Greatest Commandments
- Nov 21st The Beautiful Extravagance
- Nov 28th The Boring Genealogy
 - **First Sunday Advent*
 - ***Begin Matthew's Christmas Story*



"WITH MAN THIS
IS IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT NOT WITH GOD;

ALL THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE
WITH GOD."



Castro Mexican Ministry Update



In the community where the Castro Ministry serves they went through a hurricane in August and many families were affected. Their church made a collection and they were able to distribute from their pantries to help the families affected by the hurricane. The pastor's daughters also were ill from Covid, but have since recovered well and are getting ready to begin to attend the university. They are thankful for all the help we have provided in our support for this amazing ministry and they were able to send us some pictures to share as they worked in the community.





Fall Back!! November 7th

Make sure you turn your clocks back an hour on Saturday night so you get that extra hour of sleep before church Sunday morning!



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*

KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Thanksgiving

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude:24

It's that time of year again when many of us are thinking turkey dinners, pumpkin pie, getting together with family, as the end of the month draws nigh! It's a wonderful time for all of that! It is so important to give thanks to God for all our blessings. Even in these stressful times we are blessed with food, shelter, and family. With Covid still lurking and creating fear and uncertainty, we should also see the grace of our Lord for seeing us through this and give Him thanks! Does our faith really overcome our fear? Remember, it is Christ who has all authority, it is He who holds the keys to death and Hades. He is in control of everything that comes to pass. Do we believe that or do we really live in fear? Let us remember to give thanks to God for our salvation, that we are His and the promise of eternal life is ours. Are we able to say, as Paul did, to live is Christ but to die is gain?

Let us enjoy the celebration of Thanksgiving with our friends and family, never forgetting from whom we receive everything in this life and the next! “Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift! “2 Corinthians 9:15

Happy Thanksgiving Grace Church!

Blessings,
Jill Fraser





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

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352-552-0052

Rev. Dr. Dave Dorst

Email: graceepclesburg@gmail.com

Website: GraceEPC.church

Like us on Facebook: Grace EPC

All activities are tentative and subject to change.

SUNDAYS:

- 9:30 AM ~ Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:00 AM ~ Worship
- 11:15AM ~ Sunday School

MONDAYS:

- 6:30PM ~ Royal Highlands Small Group
- 6:30 PM ~ Howey Monday Small Group (11/8)

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (11/16)
- 6:30 PM ~ Howey Tuesday Small Group (11/9)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9:30AM ~ Women's Bible Study
- 2:00 PM ~ Villages Small Group (11/10)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Practice

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (11/11)
- 10:30 AM ~ Plantation Small Group (11/11)
- 11:30 AM ~ Widow's Luncheon (11/18)
- 1:00 PM ~ Prayer Time with Pastor John - (11/4 & 11/18)

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (11/26) ~ *Breakfast Station in Leesburg*

SATURDAYS:

- 9:00 AM ~ Chronicles of Narnia Class (11/13 & 11/20)
- 9:00 AM ~ Christmas Decorating (11/27)