



Volume 12, Issue 5
May 2023

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MAY PASTOR'S PEN

"I Thank God for Mothers"

On Sunday May 14th we celebrate "Mother's Day," and I thank God for all mothers, especially my mother. She has always been there supporting and encouraging me, from birth to this day. I was blessed that my mother was able to be at home during my childhood. My elementary school was within walking distance and it made it possible for me to even come home for lunch and she would always make me one of my favorites. During supper one time, which I was always required to take part in, my sister and I were asked if we would like for our mother to enter the workforce so that we could have more money? We said no, we want mom home and that money wasn't all that important to us. My mother was a Proverbs 31 mother. No hour is too early or too late to help. She always has compassion, always willing to help meet the needs of those that are struggling. Everyday my parents had the local newspaper delivered and I remember them telling me about "Erma Bombeck." According to my google search Erma Bombeck, wrote over 4,000 newspaper columns between 1965 and April 17, 1996. She used broad and sometimes eloquent humor, chronicling the ordinary life of a Midwestern suburban housewife. In one of her columns she told of God in the act of creating mothers. She said that on the day God created mothers He had already worked overtime. An angel said to Him, "Lord, you sure are spending a lot of time on this one."

The Lord turned & said, "Have you read the specs on this model? She is supposed to be completely washable, but not plastic. She is to have 180 moving parts, all of them replaceable. She is to have a kiss that will heal everything from a broken leg to a broken heart. "She is to have a lap that will disappear whenever she stands up. She is to be able to function on black coffee & leftovers. And she is supposed to have six pairs of hands." "Six pairs of hands?," said the angel, "that's impossible." "It's not the six pairs of hands that bother me," said the Lord, "It's the three pairs of eyes. She is supposed to have one pair that sees through closed doors so that whenever she says, 'What are you kids doing in there?' she already knows what they're doing in there. She has another pair in the back of her head to see all the things she is not supposed to see but must see. And she has one pair right in front that can look at a child who goofed & communicate love & understanding without saying a word." "That's too much." said the angel, "You can't put that much in one model. Why don't you rest for a while & resume your creating tomorrow?" "No, I can't," said the Lord. "I'm close to creating someone very much like myself. I've already come up with a model who can heal herself when she is sick, who can feed a family of six with one pound of hamburger, & who can persuade a nine year old to take a shower." Then the angel looked at the model of motherhood a little more closely & said, "She's too soft." "Oh, but she is tough," said the Lord. "You'd be surprised at how much this mother can do."

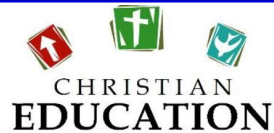


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"Can she think?" asked the angel. "Not only can she think," said the Lord, "but she can reason & compromise & persuade." Then the angel reached over & touched her cheek. "This one has a leak," he said. "I told you that you couldn't put that much in one model." "That's not a leak," said the Lord. "That's a tear."

"What's a tear for?" asked the angel. "Well it's for joy, for sadness, for sorrow, for disappointment, for pride." "You're a genius," said the angel. And the Lord said, "Oh, but I didn't put it there."

I thank God for creating mothers!
May God bless you all today and forevermore!
Pastor Rick Rosenkrans



By Elder Linda Pool

There Is None Like You

*There is none like You.
No one else can touch
My heart like You do.
I could search for all eternity long,
And find there is none like You.
—Lenny Le Blanc*

These words describe someone totally in love with Jesus. Do you sense the songwriter's longing to be with the one he loves? Such a close relationship doesn't happen quickly. It's nurtured through careful, deliberate time together.

How much time do you devote to listening to God? Do you feast on His Word? Not just quickly skimming the verses but lingering and savoring them? Are you letting Scripture check your thoughts and attitudes? Have you allowed it to transform your priorities? Is God's Word your guide in determining decisions? Hopefully you are able to say with Moses, "They are not just idle words for you --they are you life" (Deuteronomy 32:47a).

The measure you use will be measured back to you. If you want Jesus to be your everything, then make Him more important than anything. When we give Him prime time (not leftover time), speak from the heart, and listen carefully for His answers, He will meet us and touch us.

Daily, the riches of His glory await you. His Word can take you deeper and higher than you've ever been. Your time together will become the best part of every day. There is no one like Him.

"Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours."
Psalm 86:8

PRAYER: Ask God to develop your relationship with Him as you spend time in the Bible. Ask Him, "Is there something you want to teach me about this?" Wait and listen for His answer.

From : "Songs 4 Worship" "OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART"
(Daily Devotions From The Greatest Praise and Worship Songs of All Time)



**THERE IS NONE
LIKE YOU AMONG
THE GODS, O LORD,
NOR ARE THERE ANY
WORKS LIKE YOURS.**

PSALM 86:8

Evangelism Task Force

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearances and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Paul’s words to Timothy that he “be prepared in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2) might seem a bit odd. In context, Paul wants Timothy to carry out the task of preaching “the word” when it’s appropriate to his audience (in season) and also when that audience doesn’t want to hear it (out of season).

Then Paul points out that soon Timothy’s audience won’t tolerate the hard truths of following Jesus; instead, they will turn to “what their itching ears want to hear” (v. 3). Paul wanted Timothy to preach the gospel to people regardless of whether they felt up to denying themselves, caring for the poor, the widow, the orphan, or following Jesus into death. As a young church planter, Timothy faced a world that would hate his message as well as embrace it. And still, he preached “the word” (v. 2).

It was important for Timothy to preach the gospel so that the Christian faith could spread throughout the world. We believe in Christ today because people like Timothy were faithful to their mission. It is still vitally important for believers to spread the gospel. Half of the total number of people who have ever lived are alive today, and most of them do not know Christ. He is coming soon, and he wants to find his faithful believers ready for him. It may be inconvenient to take a stand for Christ or to tell others about his love, but preaching the Word of God is the most important responsibility the church and its members have been given. Be prepared for, courageous in, and sensitive to God-given opportunities to tell the Good News.

*In part by: Jed Ostoich (Our
Daily Bread, April 11, 2023)
& Life Application Bible*





Jim & Janet Reagle

Jim and Janet Reagle live in Lake Harris Landing, Leesburg.

Jim was born in the city of Meadville, Pennsylvania and Janet in a small village of Geneva, Pennsylvania. Jim was raised in Mercer County and Janet in Crawford County, both are rural areas. Jim attended one room schoolhouses until the 9th grade, graduated from Commodore Perry High School, and then graduated from Allegheny Technical School with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Janet attended a small four room grade school in Geneva, PA and then attended High School in Conneaut Lake, PA. They lived about 10 miles from each other but never met until both attended the basketball game at Conneaut Lake. It was a rival match and Janet's team won. They started dating and were married 9 months later in September 1961.

They raised three daughters and one son; and to date, they have eight grandchildren, two are in heaven watching over the other six. They also have fourteen great-grands with another precious blessing due in April.

Janet was an RN and Jim was a foreman in a steel and pipe mill. They both retired early and relocated to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, where they worked several positions in the Dolly Wood theme park, then retired completely at age 75. After two years of harsh winters, they headed to Florida and purchased a home in Lake Harris Landing, but are still snowbirds.

Jim was an avid golfer, achieving a hole in one, and an avid hunter also with several trips out west. Janet knitted and crocheted making quilts and afghans for all her children and grands. They enjoyed hiking the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. All changed following a bad accident.

They consider Grace EPC their church home here in Florida, very like their PA church, Faith PC. Everyone is very friendly, making them feel very comfortable. Should they decide in the future to stay in Florida all year, they would like to get more involved with our church activities.





BIRTHDAYS

Sue Davids—1st
 Sally Peck—3rd
 Barbara Mead—5th
 Rose Rode—11th
 Cindy Semenik-Hall—14th
 Roger Bass—17th
 Linda Klee—19th
 Jeanette Rosenkrans—21st
 Chris Kowach—23rd
 Diane Lamping—30th



May ANNIVERSARIES

John & Loise Romano—3rd
 Roy & Robin Pauley—5th
 Larry Hochhalter & Pam Dryer—21st
 Wally Sr & Linda Klee—21st
 Rick & Jeanette Rosenkrans—29th



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

May 26th at 8:30am
 at Wolfy's in Leesburg



Prayer Time with Pastor John

May 4th & 18th
 at 1:00pm

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



The Widow's Luncheon will be on

Widow's Luncheon

Thursday, May 18th at 11:30am

At Grace EPC in the Tea Room

It will be a "Bring Your Own Lunch" occasion and there will be a guest speaker. Please let Sue Hammond know if you are attending by Sunday, May 14th.



Clothed in Hope—Zambia Recap

I've been back longer than I was away in Zambia, yet I'm still reaching for words to describe what happened during this trip.

Practically, our week was very full. Meetings, home visits, business visits, planning, more meetings. I hadn't been for a visit since December 2019, so there was a lot of uncertainty. After a few years of our planning being a reaction to the economic challenges of shut downs and health issues, it was time to begin a new chapter. One where we can look forward. To this year, to 5 years from now, to a renewed vision for CiH and its place in Zambia.

After 3 years away, I was confronted with questions from within:

- Was there still a place for CiH?
- Is our entrepreneur program even working?
- What did our staff want?
- What are the needs to be met?

I was braced for hard answers. To come to a scene of question marks and unknowns.

But that wasn't what happened.



I walked into a quiet confidence from our staff. A peaceful assurance in our people. Validation that this is EXACTLY where we are supposed to be.

This isn't to say that there isn't still need. Rather the opposite. There is immense need. Poverty is more rampant and intense than ever. Abuse is widespread. Lots and lots of struggle.

But instead of the feeling of chaos to address these issues, there was a feeling of stability.

We have a history. We have a tested program. We have more than a decade under our belt. And most of all, we have a team who is more passionate and dedicated and unified than ever before.

I look forward to sharing details with our exact plans forward in an upcoming post, along with personal stories from our graduates and entrepreneurs. For now, I'll sign off by saying thank you.

Thank you for sustaining us in the uncertain years when we blindly took one step at a time, unsure of how this story would play out. Thank you for your faithful commitment to empowering women in a sustainable way, for doing the hard long-term work of transforming communities led by locals. Thank you for continuing to hope. For sending your dollars and encouragement that kept our women going during times that seemed impossible.



It may sound cheesy or exaggerated, but this trip really was magical. Unexpected in every wonderful way. We lost our luggage and I brought home a parasite, so I don't say that it was void of difficulty. But it was wonderful in the deepest sense. A unified vision formed. Meaningful relationships cultivated. Tender conversations spoken. Powerful moments shared.

The stuff life is all about. Life. Love. Overcoming. Encouragement. Empathy. Compassion. Sacrifice. HOPE.

With Chikondi (Love),

Amy

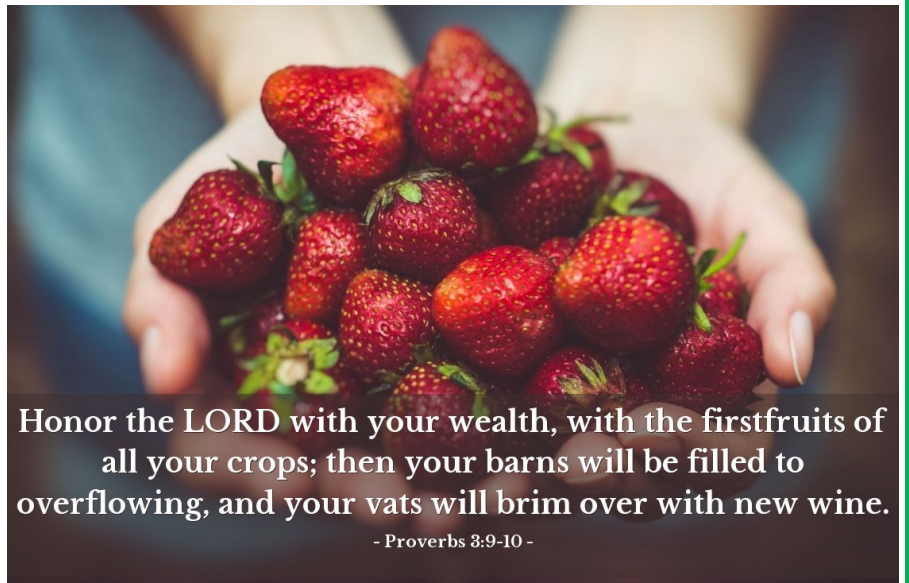
CiH Founder



Now it is May and summer is fast approaching. That will be followed by fall and then the end of this year. Wow, how time flies. But, we should take each day as a special gift. I just read an article that spoke of a woman who had died at age 61. I don't know about you, but to me that is very young. But, she waged a years long battle with cancer during which she chose to not allow that fight to define her. She wrote that she viewed each new day as a gift and tried to live it as fully as possible, spending time with her family and working to improve the lives of others. I mention this simply because when I read that it occurred to me that this is what we as a church should also be doing. So, how do we help others to improve their lives. How about being a bastion of hope, a sanctuary, a place of calm where people can enter leaving the stresses of the world behind for a while and then learn how they can accept our Lord's promise of eternal life through Him? Don't you think that facing our own demise is easier knowing that we have His promise of eternal life? And let's be realistic, this is something that we all face.

So, it is our charge from the Father to prepare a place in which others can find this sanctuary, where we can gather new comers and help them to understand the blessing inherent with Jesus. Now, let's consider our church's property on US 27. Then, consider the numbers of new residents that are expected in this area over the next 2 to 5 years, and now ask yourself whether you are doing all you can to support our mission to reach out to those folks. I just reread an article from 2017 that highlighted the expansion of The Villages in the area of CR 470 and the Fl Turnpike. Just that area alone was platted for 2600 new homes. That will add about 5000 new neighbors within 5 miles of our site. By the way, the development is underway with roads and other infrastructure being built now so it will not be long for the homes to follow. In addition, on the west or south side of the Turnpike is several thousand additional acres that is also being developed as part of The Villages. This is a huge area that will house many more thousands of new people that will also need what we can and should provide. Next, ask yourself what must happen to start this project? How about each of us looking at Proverbs 3:9-10. "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will be bursting with wine." That says that we, instead of looking at our needs and then deciding what will be left for Him, should provide for Him and He will ensure that there is enough left for us. If we would each do that there would be plenty with which to establish a larger facility closer to all the growth that is occurring. Also, remember that there is an offer to match our giving to the Building Fund. Please pray about this during your regular devotions.

See you in CHURCH,
Dave Hoffmeyer
Stewardship & Finance



**Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of
all your crops; then your barns will be filled to
overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.**

- Proverbs 3:9-10 -

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group Sue Davids Birthday	2 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study	3 9:45am Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal Sally Peck Birthday John & Loise Romano	4 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John	5 Barbara Mead Birthday Roy & Robin Pauley Anniversary	6
7 Communion Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship	8 10:00am GriefShare 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Royal Harbor Small Group	9 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study	10 9:45am Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11 10:00am Finance Committee Meeting 10:00am Chrismos Class 10:30am Plantation Small Group Rose Rode Birthday	12	13
14 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship Cindy Semenik-Hall Birthday	15 10:00am GriefShare 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	16 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 10:00am Session Meeting	17 2:00pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal Roger Bass Birthday	18 11:30am Widow's Luncheon 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John	19 Linda Klee Birthday	20
21 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship Jeanette Rosenkrans Birthday Larry & Pam Hochhalter Anniversary Wally & Linda Klee Anniversary	22 10:00am GriefShare 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Royal Harbor Small Group	23 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Chris Kowach Birthday	24 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal	25 10:30am Plantation Small Group	26 8:30am Women's Breakfast	27
28 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship	29 Memorial Day 10:00am GriefShare 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group Rick & Jeanette Rosenkrans	30 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Diane Lamping Birthday	31 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal			

Fun Fact Trivia Time!!

Everyone sees the 8' wood cross on stage, but does anyone know where it came from?

We'll give you a hint:

It has a connection with Clothed in Hope, a mission that Grace EPC supports.

Do you give up yet?

Amy Woodell Bardi, founder and executive director of Clothed in Hope, had it custom made for her wedding in North Carolina. After the wedding, she donated it to the church while the building we were meeting in was still being rented from Women's Club of Leesburg.



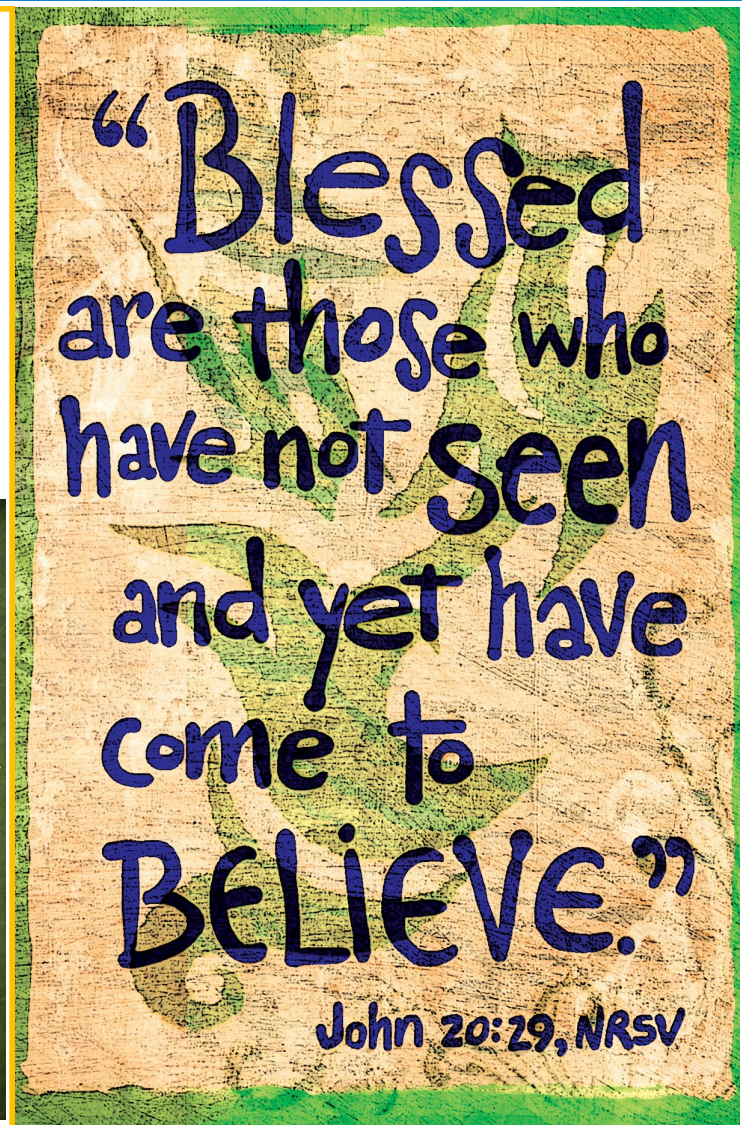
May Sermon Schedule

May 7th Today, Before and After

May 14th Jude: Trained to Be a Christian Soldier

May 21st A Friend Loves at All Times

May 28th Pentecostal Power





KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Memorial Day

*The one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new"
Revelation 21:5*

All the trimming of the bushes and trees has been done and the new growth has begun.

This month of May is special as we remember our veterans and we celebrate Memorial Day. Many of our quilts have had a patriotic theme and the recipients of these quilts have been so appreciative.

The following message was received from a victim of ALS.

"What a special surprise we had today upon receipt of your gift. Thank you so much for your kindness. The Gift of Love prayer quilt is beautiful and will be a comforting reminder that our future is in God's hands. The patriotic theme is perfect for Memorial Day."

Grace EPC, reach out to your neighbors who may need assurance of God's love. Our prayer shawls have brought comfort to many in the past. Fill out a card that can be found in the back of the pew chairs and place it in the offering plate and we will give a "Gift of Love" to that person.



Happy Memorial Day Grace Friends

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

• Remember and Honor •



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352-552-0052

Email: GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com

Website: GraceEPC.church

Like us on Facebook: Grace EPC

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 (5/8 & 5/22)

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (5/16)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9:45 AM ~ Women's Bible Study (last one 5/10 then break for summer)
- 2:30 PM ~ Villages Small Group (5/3 & 5/17)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (5/11)
- 10:00 AM ~ Chrismons Class (5/11)
- 10:30 AM ~ Plantation Small Group (5/11 & 5/25)
- 11:30 AM ~ Widow's Luncheon (5/18)
- 1:00 PM ~ Prayer Time with Pastor John (5/4 & 5/18)

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (5/26)