



Greetings to All of Our Friends at Grace Church,

I hope you are all healthy in body, mind, and spirit.

While you've been away, a few things have been happening at the church. The three new ornamental trees in the garden have all blossomed and now leafed out, a good sign! We are planning to plant three more of the same next week to fill out our beautiful garden and give us more shade from summer's heat. Tulips are up and showing their colors, the grass is greening up and in need of its first cut. We removed a number of potentially problematic maple and oak trees out back. Much thanks to Al and Patrick Foster (aka Paul Bunyan and son).

I have been selling firewood split and delivered to church members for \$150 a truckload. Contact me if you would like some.

The interior of the church has been undergoing some repairs. Larry Dillon (I know he would prefer me not to mention his name) has repainted the stair treads and risers to the lower hall. He has also been refinishing much of the woodwork, including the entire paneled oak wall trim and doors behind the altar, and it looks amazing! Much thanks to him.

Once all that work is completed, we will be having the downstairs hall carpets professionally cleaned, something we've been needing for some time. We are soon to be adding louvered vents to the attic (a long deferred task), which will bring the building up to code and help cool it in summer months.

The preschool, Grace School, which had to close before it was able to finish its first year, has been getting refreshed as well. The school's director, Amy Maria, is planning to

extend the academic program to include kindergarten! That will be a blessing, especially for her first student who can now return for another year.

Next up will be fencing in the backyard area for the playground and church functions and activities. If any would like to help with some digging and yard work, I'd appreciate that, and so would my back.

Perhaps you have noticed, the church website has been getting some updating; please check it out. We had a webcam and tripod donated which has helped with live-streaming our Sunday services. Soon, weather permitting, we'll be filming outdoors in the garden.

Several weeks ago I submitted applications for numerous relief grants. I'm happy to report that we just received one in the amount of \$12,500. That is certainly a big help and blessing.

I would also like to thank all of you who have been continuing with your donations to the church during this difficult time. Our expenses are a bit less, but not by that much, as most of our utilities are spread out for the year, so they remain the same, as does the mortgage. Again, I ask only if you're able to, to please contribute. If any are able to help with yard work, spring cleaning, etc., please let me know and we can arrange some socially distanced time at the church.

Beginning May 11th at 7 pm, and continuing each Monday evening, Kenneth Wadness will be continuing our bible study on the book of Genesis by way of Google Meet. All are welcome to participate. Contact Kwadness@gmail.com

The coronavirus pandemic has had, and continues to have, devastating effects upon every phase of our world. We are all feeling its impact, and will be for a very long time even after it has passed. We need to continue to pray and seek God during this difficult time. He still has a plan, He still has a purpose, and He still wishes to teach us and bring us to a better place through this. Therefore, hold firm to His unfailing hand, keep the

faith, don't give up hope or allow fear and worry to set in. Above all, listen for His voice and follow His lead, become the blessing our world so desperately needs. Be the vessels of His infinite goodness and love. We may be absent from our churches and sanctuaries, but our Lord is present in our hearts and homes. May His peace now remain with you.

Blessings,

Fr. Peter