

Welcome and announcements – May 17

Welcome to worship on this mid May Sunday. Spring is finally here, and with it the black flies and, no doubt, ticks. We can see the forests turning green in front of our eyes. As Paul exhorts the Thessalonians, we give thanks for all of this (yes, even the black flies).

With warmish weather on us at last, it is time to give thought to doing some painting inside the church. Our first order of business is to repaint the bathrooms and their entryway. We have the paint in hand. We also need to repaint the metal posts that hold the sign in front of the church. With the sign gone for the time being it is time to clean those posts and apply some antirust black paint. Again, we have the paint in hand. While we are using latex inside, the outside posts require oil based, so clean up is more time consuming (and messy). If you would like to help, contact one of the trustees.

We see around us – in our state, country and world – reopening of the public space. We need to do so with great care, remembering that COVID remains with us for the foreseeable future. A lesson of the past few weeks has been to what extent we can safely navigate our life in community. To this end Council will meet next week to discuss reopening on site worship. Please pray on this and what you are comfortable with. At the same time, please remember that our actions outside of that may well determine the safety of us all when we come together in person. With COVID we each are only as well as the least well person we have encountered.

Here is a blessing we will later pray about. As the town develops its budget there is great concern about tax levels, so the budget committee and selectboard has been sharpening its collective pencils to see where the budget can be constrained. This may impact the food bank. This week, however, we received not only some additional donations for the food bank, but also received grants from Food City and Hannaford that together equal what the town normally budgets. While needs remain great, it is, indeed, Providential that as we understand that the town funding may drop this has been offset, at least dollar for dollar, by these unexpected grants. Thanks be to God.

Let us prepare to worship.