

News from Pastor Heather



“If My people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
2 Chronicles 7:14

This year as we celebrate July 4th, Independence Day, let us remember the men and women who have fought and died for the freedom that we enjoy in this country each and every day.

There is much to be said for freedom. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to be whom and what we choose to be are all a part of the American Dream. With freedom came a great price for many who have gone on before us and we must always be grateful to them.

With the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ came our freedom as Christians. Freedom to live an abundant life, a life without fear and with a promise of eternal life is one of the many great things we have been given. With God each and every day is Independence Day and we must always be grateful to Him and His son for the freedoms we often take for granted.

This Independence Day I hope you and your family celebrates the birth of our nation and remember the freedoms that we have because truly we are “One nation under God.” This 4th of July let us pray for our nation.

JULY EVENTS

SATURDAY, JULY 10
10:30 AM
MISSIONARY
OUTREACH LUNCH AT
HEARTSIDE

MONDAY, JULY 12
12:00 NOON
Y-LIFE
BREAKFAST & BIBLES

TUESDAY, JULY 13
6:30 PM ELDERS MEET
7:30 PM CONSISTORY

SATURDAY, JULY 17
1:00 PM
Y-LIFE
BEACH TRIP

SUNDAY, JULY 18
10:00 AM
OUTDOOR WORSHIP
FOLLOWED BY A
COOKOUT
Y-LIFE SERVICE DAY

FRIDAY, JULY 23
7:00 PM
MOVIE NIGHT
“I STILL BELIEVE”

SUNDAY, JULY 25
12:30 PM
GOLF SCRAMBLE
MAPLE HILL GC

MONDAY, JULY 26
12:00 NOON
Y-LIFE
BREAKFAST & BIBLES
DISCOVERY KIDZ WILL
MEET JULY 11 & 25



TOWER CONSTRUCTION

The scaffolding on the building roof is hard to miss if you have been here. Our tower is being dressed in a new insulated coat of EIFS. (Exterior Insulated Finish System). 57 years after constructing the tower of masonry with brick veneer and single pane glass, we have chosen to encase the tower with insulation and a plaster appearing finish used dominantly on the exterior. While the tower is structurally sound, it poses several problematic issues that will be cured by the new cladding. These include:

- The bricks on the tower have damage due to freeze thaw damage and have been repaired at least twice since built. The last repairs in 2000 cost \$25,195.
- The tower has been a large source of heat loss and gain due to the single pane glass.
- The tower has been a source of storm water leaks.
- While the natural sunlight entering the sanctuary thru the tower provided beautiful lighting of our nave cross it made it difficult to black out the room for special events.

They encapsulate by 1.5" of insulation and the addition of controllable LED lighting will provide a better functioning building with lower maintenance and energy costs. The current project is \$29,000 and should provide a more permanent solution.

Of interest, the top of tower is 70 feet above the parking lot behind the building and the top of cross is 90 feet. The steel cross and the anchors holding it to the tower face were found to be in very good condition. This is good news since the 36-foot tall 634-pound cross is directly above Pastor Heather and the praise teams heads during our worship time.

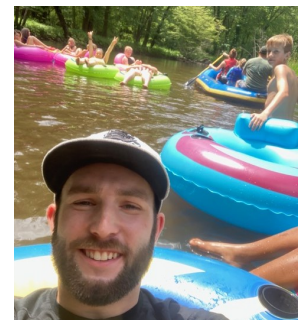
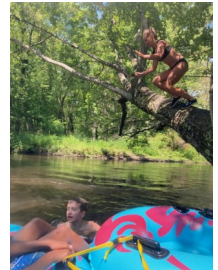


The project should be complete in a couple of weeks with a white and charcoal gray backdrop to display that great symbol of salvation, the Cross, to our mission field.

Thank you to Rick Postema for providing us with this great information.

Y-Life River Trip

The kids had a great time on the river trip June 19! Bad weather threatened but didn't spoil the fun!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Hello everyone, I am Karen Harmsen, the baby of 7! I grew up in Mio, MI. I came to Grand Rapids back in 1990 for the weekend. I was a single mom of 2 until 1995 when I met my husband Tim. In 1998 we became a blended family. I was very blessed to be a stay at home mom. Around 2002 Tim and I became empty nesters, so that left a lot of time on my hands. I found myself just wanting to help people any where and any way I could. In 2009 Tim and I were blessed with our son Marshell. In 2019 Marshell came home from school and asked if he could go to this "Crossing thing" after school. He says it's only on Mondays....please mom! So I said yes but mom's not going to be there! Well at 6:00 pm that first night I went to Grace Church just to check on Marshell. This sweet lady came up to me and began telling all about the Crossing and church on Sundays at 10:00. She invited me to come, and even sit with her. It took me 2 Sundays before I came. Before I knew it, here comes Pastor Heather asking if I like to do crafts! So I did 2 Christmas crafts and Sandy Gort saw them and pulled me right into the GEMS with her to help with their crafts. So that brings me to today in 2021. I can say my one weekend in Grand Rapids is now over because I found a home right here at Grace!

