June 2025

The Grapevine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower."
(John 15:1)

"I called to the Lord out of my distress, and (he) answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice" (Jonah 2:2).

When I was in seminary, we had a group called Agape Theatre. We would bring to life (sometimes in humorous ways) Biblical stories. One of my favorites was Jonah. In one scene, I played Jonah when the fish spewed Jonah out onto dry land. I remember a classmate throwing water on me as I miraculously came from the fish!

I like Jonah. While this story is about Jonah, it is also about God. God calls this guy to do a surprising thing. Even when Jonah disobeys, God still journeys with him. God hears his prayers, his plight from the belly of the fish, and God has compassion for Jonah. God also has compassion for the people of Nineveh.

We get to witness in this story God's amazing and unending love, and to the people who have suffered for so long—they receive compassion and care.

I am reminded as we have grieved so much recently. We have grieved the death of beloved members Mignon, Donna, Jennith, Sally, and Roxanne. You all have grieved the death of family members and friends. There is so much loss in our world. In such a loss, I try to hold onto the hope of how we find new ways to be community together.

While the Book of Jonah is often remembered as how I started this reflection, about the fish, it really reminds us of God's acts of love that are beyond our wildest imagination. It also reminds me that the people, Jonah, the fish, all are important to God. Each one of us matters, even when we turn away from God. God still journeys with us. In this season, know God is with you no matter where you go. Beyond our wildest imaginations, we are cared for, and called to care for one another. Beyond our wildest imaginations, we are seen by God and by one another.

One of my favorite poems to remind myself of the importance of every little thing is: "Famous" by Naomi Shihab Nye, https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47993/famous

The river is famous to the fish.
The loud voice is famous to silence,
which knew it would inherit the earth
before anybody said so.
The cat sleeping on the fence is famous to the birds
watching him from the birdhouse.
The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek.
The idea you carry close to your bosom
is famous to your bosom.
The boot is famous to the earth,
more famous than the dress shoe,
which is famous only to floors.
The bent photograph is famous to the one who carries it
and not at all famous to the one who is pictured.
I want to be famous to shuffling men
who smile while crossing streets,
sticky children in grocery lines,
famous as the one who smiled back.
I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous,
or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular,
but because it never forgot what it could do.

Copyright Credit: Naomi Shihab Nye, "Famous" from *Words Under the Words: Selected Poems* by Naomi Shihab Nye, copyright © 1995.
Source: *Words Under the Words: Selected Poems* (Far Corner Books, 1995)

May this poem bring you solace. May we discover ways to show acts of love to one another and to ourselves. Know you are loved, beloved. Be love.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Joanna

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We receive questions about our solar panels. Here are a few.

Q: How big is our system?
A: We have 119 panels that generate a little over 50kW on a sunny day. This is about 20% more than we were using on average for the two year period ending in September 2024. However, our average usage is lower than the two year average because we made electric efficiency improvements last spring. We are also planning more improvements that will bring the use down even more.

Q: What incentives are we getting?
A: Our system costs a little over $123k. We got a grant of $20k from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area because the system supports one of our missions around helping the environment and our mission to support Bloom. We will also get monthly rebates from Xcel. Plus, any excess electricity we produce will get sold back to Xcel at our electricity billing rate for the electricity (not counting fees). This is called net metering. Usually, this will be reduction in our bill. We also qualify for a refund from the federal government next year of 30% of the system cost, which would be about $41k. We got word that this program looks safe for this year.

Q: How does net metering work?
A: We have a meter on the building that measures how much net electricity Xcel actually delivers to the building or that we put on the grid. So, if we are using electricity from the grid in excess of what we are producing (like at night), the meter will show that difference. If we are producing more electricity than we are using, the meter will "run backwards," subtracting our generated electricity from the amount we got from the grid.

Bible Versions
Some people have wondered why the Bible verses read in church are different than what is in the pew Bibles. Our pew Bibles are the ***New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)***. For readings, we copy from on-line Bibles so there are not transcription errors. The NRSV online has been replaced in the last two years with the ***NRSVUE*** (updated edition) version. In some cases, the NRSV and NRSVUE texts are very similar. In other cases, they are significantly different. Sometimes, we will use another version, like ***The Message***. In those cases, we will note in the bulletin the version that is used.

Buying new pew Bibles would be fairly expensive. They are about $14 each and we have about 200 pew Bibles. There are some other options being explored. We will be putting in the bulletin that the normal version that will be read in services is the NRSVUE.

How to Avoid Phishing Scams

Phishing is when scammers use email or text messages to try to get you to reveal critical personal information including passwords, account numbers, etc. Unfortunately, they are successful in too many cases. Scammers often pose as coming from large companies like Amazon or Netflix, all the way to smaller groups to which you are attached - like a fake email that looks like it is from PPC. The article in the link below does a good job in describing how to recognize and protect yourself from phishing.

https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams

Food Donations

IOCP most in-demand items currently
(Drop-off in labeled baskets on coatroom floor):

- Bottled water
- Feminine Hygiene products (especially pads)
- Brand name cereals

Bloom
(Drop off in labeled cabinet on the right in the coatroom):

- Canned vegetables (except green beans)
- Canned Fruits
- Soups
- Mac & Cheese (boxes and individual cups)

Let's recycle these items and save IOCP from having to purchase new!

- Empty Egg Cartons
- Reusable Grocery Bags (new)
- Paper Grocery Bags

5th WEDNESDAY AT IOCP

Our next 5th Wednesday opportunity to volunteer at IOCP, sorting donations for the thrift store, is coming up on July 30, 5:15 -7:00pm. Register to volunteer at *https://iocp.volunteerhub.com/vv2/*.

***If you have questions or need help registering, contact the IOCP Community Engagement Team*: getinvolved@iocp.org or 763-489-7500.**

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who participated in our special Earth Day pollinator education and solar panel dedication on Sunday, May 18!

DEEP DIVE

Mark your calendar for two tentative Sunday Deep Dives. In June, *Shari Durdin* will share about her trip to Africa. Shari says: On Sunday, June 15, I will be sharing experiences from my journey to Kenya this past February, where I had the incredible opportunity to work with young girls and their babies through Imara International. It was a deeply moving experience to witness the strength and resilience of these young mothers as they strive for a better future. I'll be reflecting on the challenges, and hope I encountered, and how this mission impacted my heart and faith. I invite you to come and hear how God is at work in Kenya—and how we're all part of that story. ~Shari Durdin

And in July, *Carol Reed* will tell about her time as volunteer pastor at Iona Abbey in Scotland.

Carol sent us this beautiful postcard while she was in Scotland.

A Familiar Face on Jeopardy!

One of our former pastors, ***Jeff Foels***, will be a contestant on an upcoming episode of Jeopardy! Tune in on Wednesday, July 2, to see Jeff compete. Jeopardy airs on KARE-11 at 4:30pm. Beyond competing on Jeopardy, Jeff and his family are doing well. Kelly continues her work as an endangered species biologist with the the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Jeff is enjoying his time as a stay-at-home dad: Mari has just finished kindergarten, and Milo just celebrated his third birthday!

When Mignon passed away, her husband, Larry, decided that Plymouth Presbyterian's words about her would be her memorial instead of a service. Would you help us remember and honor Mignon in a special way in this Grapevine?

Katherine Nearmyer (Mignon)

November 26, 1942 - May 2, 2025

Plymouth, MN - Katherine Mignon Nearmyer nee Lynam, age 82, of Plymouth, Minnesota passed away May 2nd, 2025 at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. Mignon was born November 26, 1942 in Kansas City, Missouri. She attended Baker University, Missouri University at Kansas City, Ursinus College and was granted her Bachelor of Arts degree by Muskingum College on August 13th, 1967. She Married Larry Edward Nearmyer on August 30, 1963. During her lifetime, she acquired a broad wealth of literary knowledge; became an advanced level seamstress, mastered the world's greatest card game-Contract Bridge; and honed her teaching skills. She combined her teaching skills with her knowledge of bridge to teach the game to thousands of students through community education venues. She is preceded in death by her parents, Edward S. and Emma Jean Lynam, and her sister, Paula J. Hon. Surviving family members include her husband, Larry E. Nearmyer; her daughters, Genevieve Damico of Chicago, Illinois and Chariss Nearmyer of Princeton, Minnesota; Grandsons Caden Wolsfeld, Logan Wolsfeld, and Alex Dahlheimer all of Princeton, Minnesota. She took great pride in her family members. She leaves behind a legacy that only a great teacher can achieve; thousands of people whose knowledge has been expanded, increasing their enjoyment and quality of life. She was surrounded by her closest friends preceding her death, and because of the impossibility of directly contacting the legions of people whose lives she positively affected, no memorial services other than remembrance from her church pulpit are planned. Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Presbyterian Church, 3755 Dunkirk Ln N, Plymouth, MN 55446, or Chariss' dog rescue, No Dog Left Behind www.ndlbrescue.org that has placed 7,000 dogs in foster homes.

***Lu Wilmot*, Mignon's dear friend, and fellow founding member of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, shared this about her:**

"The presbytery sent an invitation via the weekly paper to participate in a meeting at Oakwood Elementary to ascertain the level of interest in forming a Presbyterian congregation in Plymouth. The appointed night brought a heavy rainstorm. The school doors were all locked, and no one was on duty. Mignon assessed the situation and invited everyone to her house, 3 blocks away. About 30 people attended and volunteered to serve on committees. Mignon became one of the church foremothers."

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Looking for a way to serve our church community? Volunteers are needed each Sunday as worship readers, greeters, and video tech operators. If you enjoy baking, consider hosting or co-hosting the fellowship time. Please consider using your God given talent by signing up to support our church community. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the back of the Narthex or on the church website. If you would like more information please reach out to *Erik Koehler*, *Amy Leaf*, *Trina Reski*, or *Penny Blankenship*.

JOIN US!

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) will meet on 6/11 at 11 am to discuss *Lesson 9: Sustaining Creation's Health for All.*

Book Club meets 6/25 1 pm in the Fireside Room. We will discuss "*The Mighty Red*" by Louise Erdrich. Loni will lead our discussion.

BLOOM FAMILY FUN EVENT

Thursday, July 31

Bloom Early Learning will be hosting their annual meeting on July 31 from 4:30 -7:00pm at Plymouth Presbyterian Church. Along with the meeting they are planning a community Family Fun Fest with lots of fun games and food options. Spread the word. If you are interested in helping with this event, please email the church office or contact *Penny* or *David*.

Can You Help?

With the school year coming to an end and summer approaching, we are transitioning to a kids' arts and craft table in the rear of the sanctuary with art supplies, crafts, and quiet fidget toys for during the worship services. Would you consider signing up to sit at the kids' table to oversee that area and help when needed? Contact *Drew* with any questions or email office@plymouthpc.org to sign-up.

PPC Members' Night Out

Thursday, June 5

We hope you will join us for this fun event! We'll be meeting at Utepils Brewing at 6:00pm. The address is 225 Thomas Ave N #700, Minneapolis, MN 55405. For more information, see https://www.utepilsbrewing.com.

MIA Tour Cancelled

The MIA tour scheduled for June 7 has been canceled. We will look to reschedule this fun outing in the fall. If you are interested in seeing the current Giants exhibit, which will be ending on July 13, please see *Trina Reski* for VIP tickets.

GAME NIGHT

Saturday, June 28 3-6 pm

Bring your favorite game and favorite snack dip to share for this fun fellowship event!

Bakers' Group

10:00am

Saturday, August 2

The Bakers' Group will resume on Saturday, 8/2! If you like to bake, learn new recipes, or just spend some time with others in fellowship, mark your calendar now for this fun gathering.

CLEARWATER CHRYSALIS: summer AUG 14-17

Registration closes 8/6 11:59pm *clearwaterforest.campbrainregistration.com*

IOCP Volunteers Wanted - 2025

We'll continue to volunteer at the ReSale shop within IOCP, sorting donations on the 5th Wednesdays of 2025. The link for sign-up is below.

https://iocp.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/PlymouthPresbyterian/

If you have questions or need help signing up, contact *Belinda Hollman* or *Jan Lilemo*.

Reminder: PPC is Peanut and Tree Nut Free

PPC is entirely peanut and tree-nut-free for all food made or purchased for fellowship and special events. Please read the labels to double check ingredients, and any product that states "may contain peanuts or tree nuts" or "made in a facility where peanuts or tree nuts are processed" is unsafe.

We want to keep all our Bloom children plus anyone with severe nut allergies healthy and safe!

Need Information in the Bulletin or Grapevine?

Please send any announcements and information for the bulletin to office@plymouthpc.org by 2:00pm on Tuesday. When sending information for the Bulletin, please put BULLETIN in the Subject Line.

Please send any announcements and information for the Grapevine to office@plymouthpc.org by the 25th of the month. When sending information for the Grapevine, please put GRAPEVINE in the Subject Line.

Prayer Chain

To ask for prayers of the Plymouth prayer chain, send a message to: PPCprayerchain@plymouthpc.org. Alternatively, feel free to contact Pastor Joanna: Pastor@plymouthpc.org or contact Office@plymouthpc.org.

If you would like to join the prayer chain, contact *Pastor Joanna* or the Church Office.

Pastor Joanna's Office Hours

Pastor Joanna is usually in the office, but dedicating office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am-2:00pm. Feel free to drop by during those times!

Office Administrator

***Drew Becker,* our Office Administrator, will be in the office from 10:00am - 1:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

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