The Grapevine

October 2025

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

Our stewardship season begins on October 12. This year's theme is "What is your name? What is your giving story?"

There are so many ways each of you give. You give of your time as we prepare for memorial services, weddings, baptisms, outdoor worship, fellowship time, mission opportunities, leading worship in music, word, liturgy, and helping with our youngest disciples. You give of your time by visiting one another, calling and checking on each other, serving as elders, deacons, committee members, small group members, and so much more. There are so many ways you give. This is your giving story.

Jesus says, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). This is Jesus' story. This is Jesus' life. So, we will delve deeper into our story, our names, each week through an acrostic that will spell LIFE (Labor, Influence, Finances, Expertise). From rocks bearing witness to the woman who gives her last two coins, we will journey with Christ together.

You will receive a stewardship letter in a few weeks that discusses this further. I am deeply grateful to the administration ministry that takes on stewardship, as well as to how we can be faithful stewards of our resources.

This stewardship season, let's explore the many ways we serve as the body of Christ together. I am grateful for each of you and the MANY ways we glorify God through all we do.

This is our life as Plymouth Presbyterian Church.
This is our story.
Thanks be to God.

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Need More T-shirts?

Would you like to order a new Plymouth Presbyterian Church t-shirt or two? We are taking a survey to see who might be interested in a shirt, as we need a minimum of 25 to place an order. If you have any interest in purchasing one, please fill out this SURVEY or call and/or email the office. Drew will be happy to help you with the survey if needed. You can call or text on her cell.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewuQMAkXayj_34RyD4kOQfVDrv9VtW2GRD4Lqgktg0Z2Lfgw/viewform

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

GIFT Group

GIFT Group meets on October 8 at 10:00. The study book for 2025-2026 is *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ.*

The study book is $14.00. Please let *Carla Bahls* or the Office know if you want a study book ASAP. You can 1) pay Carla directly 2) pay online using the non-contribution option, or 3) leave a check or cash, with a note that the funds are for GIFT, in the offering box outside the Sanctuary on Sunday morning.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will be meeting in October on Wednesday, October 22, to discuss *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki. *Melody Baker* will lead the discussion. Anyone is welcome to join the lively discussions and fun whether or not they have finished the book.

A Note on Stewardship from the Administrative Ministry Team:

Our 2026 Stewardship campaign kicks off on Sunday, October 12, with the theme of *"What is Your Name? What is Your Giving Story."*

***Joanna* will be exploring this theme in a sermon series, also beginning October 12. Our Church has a wonderful giving story, including providing the use of our building to the nonprofit *Bloom Early Learning & Child Care* rent-free.**

There is a lot happening at *Plymouth Presbyterian Church* now with mission activities, fellowship activities, educational opportunities, and new worship ideas (including a blessing of the animals), and Joanna continues to bring a new energy to our Church. Consistent with our mission, which includes taking care of the planet God gave us, we added solar panels on the Church roof earlier this year.

Please help us to continue to build this momentum by giving for 2026, not only financially, but of your time and talents.

Please submit your Pledge Card on or before Commitment Sunday, November 16, to give Session sufficient time to prepare the 2026 budget.

The annual fall church clean-up will be held on Saturday, October 25, from 9 to noon. There are indoor and outdoor tasks. Most of them take one half hour or less to complete, so you can come when it is convenient that day. In addition, some of the tasks can be done on another day if you arrange that ahead of time. Sign-up will be in the Narthex or let *Gordon Dosher* know. Some of the tasks:

- **Polishing sanctuary furniture**
- **Replacing furnace filters**
- **Moving winter supplies out of storerooms**
- **Getting the snowblower ready for winter**
- **Changing batteries in the bathrooms**
- **Checking emergency lights**
- **Putting out sidewalk snow markers**

Winter Coat Drive

This year, we will be doing a winter coat drive for the ***International Institute of Minnesota***. This is a great organization that has been around for 100+ years and helps with refugee resettlement, immigration / citizenship support, job training and college preparation.

Coat Drive Specifics
Based on typical sizes of the people they support, they are most in need of **SMALL or MEDIUM Men's / Women's** winter coats.

* Jackets should be new or very gently used and laundered.
* They really need WARM / THICK parka type coats - the kind that would shield you from the frigid Minnesota winter while waiting at a bus stop.
* We will be running the coat drive now through **October 26,** and will bring the coats to the International Institute of MN before Halloween for disbursement.
* In the Grapevine and Facebook, we've included links to some affordable high rated warm options, but feel free to do your own thing!

Making Memories, Building Faith

Sign up now for the annual Church Clearwater Retreat Weekend, November 7-9.

We will be staying at the Leaning Tree Lodge on the beautiful grounds of the Clearwater Forest Camp and Retreat Center in Deerwood, MN. Only $250 for two nights per room including all meals Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Sign up is posted in the church narthex or by emailing the office. Space is limited so grab a room before they are all gone!

There are a very limited number of rooms still available.

Sign up soon!

Peace & Global Witness Offering
September 7-October 5, 2025

Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. Twenty-five percent of the collection is retained by congregations to support peacemaking efforts in their local communities, 25% at the regional level, and 50% supports peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness. You can donate with the offering envelopes in church, or online indicate using the "other" selection.

PLEDGED CONTRIBUTION SHORTFALL

Our congregational giving typically slows down in the summer, and this summer is no exception. As of the end of July, our pledged income receipts are about 13% behind budgeted receipts. Our expenses still continue evenly throughout the year. You received your second quarter financial report in July. If you are behind in your pledged giving, we would appreciate it if you would try to catch up when you can. Thank you!

PER CAPITA

Per Capita is what churches in the Presbyterian Church (USA) pay the denomination each year. The Per Capita amount for 2025 is $40 per individual member. Per Capita helps cover the expenses of the denomination, including for materials and services we use. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to PPC to cover this expense for each individual member of the church in your household.

Bloom Sunday & Blessing of the Animals!

On October 5, we have two great events! We will celebrate Bloom Sunday, hear from Bloom Early Learning staff, and learn more about how PPC supports this, our biggest mission project.

We will also have our first ever Blessing of the Animals on the St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day! Worship will be outside for safety and fun. Pets must be leashed, in a carrier, or safely contained. You can also bring a photo of your pet or a stuffed animal, if you prefer. All animals (in any form) will get a "Blessed" charm that can go on their collar or cage! Goodies for humans and pets will be shared after the service.

We will also be collecting pet supply donations for the North Minneapolis Pet Resource Center & Mobile Pet Resource Center. This organization works to keep pets with their owners facing financial struggles, including homelessness, and supplies are provided to pet families free of charge. We will collect the following donations:

- **Wet and dry dog and cat food (even open bags if they're in the original bag)**
- **Dog and cat treats and toys**
- **Leashes, collars, harnesses of all sizes (especially need L & XL)**
- **Cat litter**
- **Scratching posts/beds/kennels/crates**
- **Small critter items (fish tanks, hamster cages, etc.)**

You're invited!

Bloom Ball 25

Celebrating the Power of Legacy for 25 Years and Beyond

Join us on Friday, October 10, for the Bloom Ball at the stunning Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubhouse! Enjoy an unforgettable evening filled with live music, delicious food & drinks, exciting raffle baskets and a special program celebrating Bloom and the impact we're making together.

Don't miss this beautiful night of community, connection, and giving back.

Greeters, worship readers, fellowship hosts, and special music are needed in the coming weeks. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or on our website, under the events tab.

Celebrate Our October Birthdays!

Tom Marquardt

Luca Petre

David Robertson

Church Social Night Out

Thursday, October 2, 6:00pm

Boom Island Brewing Co

5959 Baker Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345

They offer pizzas and hearty snacks for dinner, as well as NA options for drinks.

https://boomislandbrewing.com/

The featured Food Truck at Boom Island on Thursday will be the Taco Taco truck, featuring "Fresh, made-to-order taco tacos straight to your mouth. Yum Yum!!" Trivia Mafia will be hosting an event from 6:30-8:30pm and Joanna has invited us all to play as a team with her, as she loves Trivia Mafia.

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*.

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.

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!

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!

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.

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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