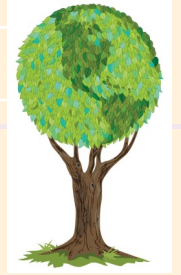




# The Grapevine *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower."*

April 2023 Edition

Grapevine next publishing: May 15th.



## Earth Day Worship

April 16

Join us at church on Sunday, April 16. We will be having our Earth Day service and there will be displays about how we can care for our earth. We will have a moment for mission from Garrett Colton of Camp Clearwater Forest. Amari Jameson Creighton, the grandson of a friend of Pastor Carol's, will be baptized. It will be a full but celebratory morning; make sure to join us!

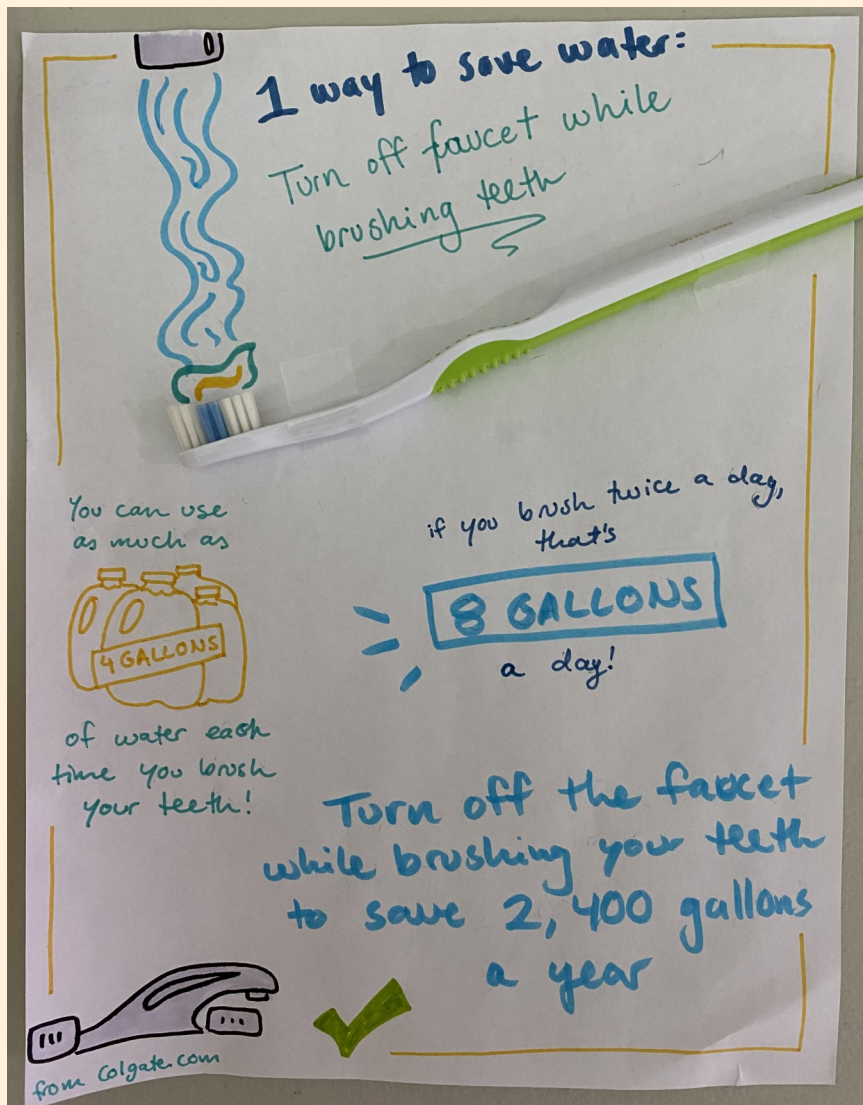
### Presbyterians Preventing

#### Pollution

The month of April is designated as Earth Month with our church taking a stand on ways we can help the environment. Our youth leaders: Katie, Emma, Anna & Tia Becker came up with the name & had ideas to get us started.

We are looking for more volunteers to join the group; a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. We are also collecting ideas of ways to help the earth on the display table in the Narthex.

Bring an example of your favorite way to reduce pollution and add to the display. Follow the lead of Eunice Kim & submit your ideas in the small GREEN compost bin located in the narthex. Finally, join us for Earth focused worship on April 16!



### PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Upcoming Dates

**Sunday, April 16:** Earth Day focus in worship; moment for Mission on Clearwater Forest; Baptism of Amari Jameson Creighton.

**Sunday, April 16 at 10:45 am:** Worship & Music Meeting; Deacon's meeting.

**Tuesday, April 18 at 7 pm:** Session Meeting.

**Sunday, April 23:** Rev. Erica Schemper, guest preacher.

**Wednesday, April 26 at 1 pm:** Book Club.

**Saturday, April 29 at 8 am:** Spring Clean-up.

**Sunday, April 30:** Rev. Chris Hagen, guest preacher.

**Sunday, April 30 at 10:45 am:** Deacon's Auction.

Thanks to everyone who helped created our art work for the Easter season.





## **Congratulations to the Reski family!**

Win Richard Reski, born March 29 at 1 pm, to Trina and Brian Reski. 8 pounds, 2 ounces and 21.25 inches long. Big sister Paige is excited (and skeptical) about her little brother.



## **Spring Clean-Up**

The last Saturday in April (4/29) and the first Saturday in May (5/6) will be our annual spring clean-up, from 8 AM to noon both days. Let Gordon Doshier know your availability and what you'd like to work on. We would love to have as many people participate as can. Most things could be done individually on different date, if one of those Saturdays does not work for you. Here is a list of things we normally do:

- Oil/polish the sanctuary furniture (polish will be provided)
- Wash the windows
- Replace furnace and air handler filters
- Rinse off outside air handler filter for kitchen
- Put away winter supplies (shovels, sand, etc.)
- Inspect and, if necessary, clean HVAC vents
- Sweep parking lot.
- Clean space under entry rugs
- Pick up trash on lot
- Get snowblower ready for summer

## **Building Updates**

Here are some things done in the building recently:

- Loni Gradick and Randy Peterson replaced the oil-stained carpet squares
- Got leaking fire sprinkler line above kitchen replaced
- Ken Blankenship and Gordon Doshier replaced 8 more hall fluorescent lights with LEDs (saves 75% of power for those replaced)
- Replaced water heater in janitor's closet
- Got church snowblower fixed
- Put new hand-soap dispenser in kitchen

## **Parking Lot**

With more people attending church lately and the snow covering some spots in front of the church, some people have parked on the side of the building. Unfortunately, with the snow and warmer temperatures, there is mud in the temporary side lot. Some spots are okay, with gravel, but there are a lot of spots that have an inch or so of mud. We have contacted the developer to ask to get more gravel put down in the muddy spots. Until then, if you park on the side, look for those spots that are the driest. We have also asked for an updated schedule for paving that lot, finishing the sidewalk access ramps, and filling in between the parking lot gutters and the sidewalk.

## Easter Poem



Like a blade of grass pushing up stubbornly through the sidewalk.

or

Like the butterfly emerging from the tomb-like chrysalis.

But much more.

Like the seed after years of dormant death sending up sprout.

or

Like the brown bulb breaking forth from brown earth into brilliant color.

But much more.

Like brilliant daybreak after stormy, darkened night.

or

Like a rainbow mystically appearing amidst the rain.

But much more.

Like a patient making an unexpected, unpredicted turn for health.

or

Like the pine cone opening to spread seed only after touched by fiery death.

But much more.

Like a beautiful vase emerging from a lump of clay in the potter's hands.

or

Like a hidden spring burbling forth in the middle of a barren desert.

But much more.

Like the surprise of Spring's buds pushing aside Winter's snow.

or

Like someone finally emerging from the fatality of addiction.

But much more.

So, it comes.

Nothing else like it.

No image adequate. No simile. No metaphor.

Unable to talk about it but inadequately

We celebrate this great, real mystery that

Neither language nor imagination can encompass.

Easter!

## Celebrating the Gifts for Women

March was Women's History Month and in response Plymouth had a "Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday" on March 26. Thanks to all the women who brought in the wide variety of representations of their gifts.



This is just a sample of the many gifts women brought to share. We are blessed to have many talented women at the church!





## **Message from Pastor Carol**

After avoiding covid for three years, I was very surprised to finally succumb. My thanks to everyone who stepped in during my absence, especially Sandy Hawley and Gordon Doshier who led worship and preached on the two Sundays I was out sick.

There is never a good time to get sick, but this time out for covid and recovery came very close to a trip that had been scheduled long before I agreed to serve as Interim Pastor at Plymouth PC. I will be away from April 18 through May 4. Rev. Erica Schemper will be preaching on April 23. She is also the liaison for Plymouth's search process and will be able to answer any questions you have about the search process. Rev. Chris Haugen will be preaching on April 30.

Rev. Brian Entz, pastor at Buffalo Presbyterian Church is available for pastoral care emergencies.

## **Guest Preachers**

Erica Schemper is a Presbyterian minister who has served churches in the Chicago area and California, with a focus on children, youth, and inter-generational ministry, and healthy congregational systems. She lives in St. Paul, MN. Currently on a hiatus from full time church work, she keeps occupied with three kids, knitting, taking long walks with the dog, and contemplating what might be next.

The Rev. Dr. Chris Hagen is familiar to PPC. His wife, Ann Brearley, is a longtime member. Chris served PPC briefly as interim pastor in 2008. He is an ELCA pastor, newly retired and enjoying many hobbies!

## **IOCP Photo**

Thanks to those who volunteered at IOCP on March 29th!



## **Book Club**

The PPC Book Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Fireside Room.

The next meeting is on April 26 at 1 pm, we will be discussing The Reading List by Sara Nish Adams, led by Deborah Petersen.



## Mission Updates

### **IOCP Food Collection**

With changes to government food assistance, the need for food is great. Our donations are needed more than ever. We will have a donation bin in the coat closet (feel free to leave bags of food in the bin before then too).

Thank you for your donations!

#### **Most Needed Items**

1. Pull-ups & Baby Wipes
2. Canned Tomato Products
3. Cooking Oil
4. Paper Towels
5. Canned Meat



You can also contribute at any time to this campaign with a monetary donation at [iocp.org/preventhunger](https://iocp.org/preventhunger). Thank you for helping feed the hungry in our community!

### **Donate New and Like-New Home Décor and Clothes to Resale Select**

Resale Select Most Needed Items

- Men's Clothing— all sizes, including big and tall; casual wear, active wear, jeans and shoes
- Spring clothing and home décor
- New and like-new home décor

Visit [iocp.org/resale-thrift-store/donate-at-resale](https://iocp.org/resale-thrift-store/donate-at-resale) for hours, address, and Most Needed items.

## Updates on the search for a called pastor

Where are we at in the search process for a new called pastor?

The church needs to review its goals and its mission. Thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee, we already have a start on that. On March 12<sup>th</sup> a listening session was held with good participation by the congregation.

Unfortunately, then Covid interfered, key leaders were away for spring break, then focus shifted to Holy Week and Easter. Meantime, Session committees have been reviewing their committee's structure and job responsibilities.

The next churchwide exercise will look at priorities, expanding on information from the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please continue to prayerfully consider if you feel called to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee. There will be an informational meeting about that later this spring. Rev. Erica Schemper is the liaison from the Presbytery and can answer any questions when she is here on April 23. As always, continue to pray for Plymouth Presbyterian Church as it moves through this time of transition.

## Message from COVID Response Committee

The following Covid Guidelines were approved at the November Session meeting.

- Vaccinations and up-to-date boosters are strongly encouraged, but proof of vaccination is not required.
- Wearing masks during the church service is strongly encouraged.
- Handwashing and sanitizing are encouraged, and hand sanitizing stations will be provided.
- We have people at risk, so be aware of those wearing masks, and be sensitive to social distancing.
- Those providing food for Fellowship will follow safe food handling procedures.

### Prayer Chain

To ask for prayers of the Plymouth prayer chain, send a message to

[PPCprayerchain@plymouthpc.org](mailto:PPCprayerchain@plymouthpc.org). Alternatively,

feel free to contact Pastor Carol:

[Pastor@plymouthpc.org](mailto:Pastor@plymouthpc.org) or contact

[Office@plymouthpc.org](mailto:Office@plymouthpc.org). If you would like to join the prayer chain, contact Loni Gradick or the church office.

### Church Family Retreat

SAVE THE DATE

Plymouth Presbyterian Church family retreat at Clearwater Forest, September 29th to October 1st. All are invited! The retreat can be found on the church website calendar. Details later.



### Volunteer

We are in need of worship leaders to read scripture and lead in prayers. If you are interested in helping, please sign-up online or contact the Office so she can get you in touch with those committees, or visit the website at [plymouthpc.org](http://plymouthpc.org) and hover over the Events tab on the top right and click on Volunteer Sign-ups!

### Church Office Hours

Peacock is now in the office Monday through Wednesday.

Please send any announcements and information for the bulletin to [office@plymouthpc.org](mailto:office@plymouthpc.org) by the end of day on Tuesday.

### Deacon's Fund Raiser

Please join us on Sunday, April 30th for a Deacon's Auction. Plan to join the fun!

All donations to the auction can be brought to church during office hours Monday– Wednesday from 9 am to 2 pm. Items will be safely stored in the conference room. Please provide information on the donated item: who donated it, a description of the item and estimated value. If you would like to donate an event such as sporting tickets, boat rides, cook-outs. Please contact Ken Blankenship at [klbken-ship@gmail.com](mailto:klbken-ship@gmail.com) with your donation. The auction will consist of two phases, a silent auction where you can write down your bid on items displayed in the narthex and a live auction that will take place shortly after the conclusion of the Sunday service.

Funds raised go to the Friends Away Program. Gift cards are sent to graduating youth. Also possible assistance for families in need, grants for women to attend Chrysalis (a Christian women's retreat), scholarships for summer camp for youth, and other needs as they become known.

### Per Capita

Per capita is a per member cost that Plymouth Presbyterian Church pays and which is divided between the Presbytery of the Twin Cities, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The per capita helps support the mission and ministry of the church at the local, regional, and national level (including the assistance provided in finding the next called pastor.) If you are a member, please consider helping out our church budget by paying \$37.50/member in your household.

PLYMOUTH  
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