The Grapevine

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

May 2025

Siblings in Christ,

Have you seen the Northern Lights? Have you seen the eclipse? Whether partial eclipse or when it is in totality?

I have not seen the Northern Lights, nor have I actually seen the eclipse. I remember last year's eclipse because I realized too late that I did not have the glasses to be able to see it. I thought about it too late. Perhaps I was too busy with what I thought I *needed* to do that I didn't take those five minutes to go find glasses ahead of time. By the time I thought about it, no store had any glasses left.

While this may sound ridiculous, and what a bummer that I missed the event, I actually find it a wonderful moment of reflection. I got to hear about other's experiences. I have listened to news reports over the years that share how wonderful these moments are, and for the eclipse, it is not just what you see, but what you feel as the temperature drops, as the community gathered goes silent, as all are in awe of the wonder and miracle of it all.

Annie Dillard writes in *Total Eclipse*, about how when she was 33 years old in 1979, she saw an eclipse. How a piece of the sun just went away, and in its place was an empty sky.

Can you imagine this? Have you witnessed this?

A partial eclipse can never prepare you for a total eclipse, she says. She writes, "What you see during an eclipse is different than what you know. What you see is much more convincing than any wild-eye theory you may know."

I see pictures you all show me about the Northern Lights you have seen here with your cameras! I hear stories of your travels, of the beautiful places you go, of the sunsets you see out of your window in your home, of the beauty of the lakes. You all tell me about how wonderful Spring is (is it here yet?), and how there are so many things to do on the water.

Seeing is believing for us sometimes. I wonder if it is more than seeing the eclipse, more than the Northern Lights, more than any of these moments themselves. It is the experience of the entire moment. It is the community gathered together. The community, that despite whatever divisions we face, can come together for at least 4 minutes of watching any event. A shared moment in history.

And for those of us who missed the moment, what might we believe? What might we notice in the stories others tell us?

Do you believe what you might not see?

I love hearing how others experience the eclipse and other events, and I cannot help but connect it to Thomas, to all the disciples, to today.

Thomas wants to see the Son, and we want to see the sun, too—albeit a different sun, hidden behind the moon during an eclipse. We want to see for ourselves the great mystery of it all.

Maybe this month we can reflect on what else might we believe that we may never see?

We keep returning year after year to the events following Easter morning, where the disciples gathered behind locked doors. What new insights might we gain in hearing it again and again, year after year?

Faith makes the unimaginable possible.

The inconceivable conceivable.

In deep gratitude for the miracle of the Resurrection, and for everyday miracles that I hope I stop to notice.

Pastor Joanna

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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PPC EARTH DAY

Sunday, May 18, we will be celebrating Earth Day at PPC (a little late due to Easter and the Deacon's Auction). We will have activities planned for the education hour, including inviting the community to a dedication / celebration of the installation completion of our much awaited solar panels.

Need Greeting Cards?

Donna Holtan-Halverstadt will be selling her line of greeting cards printed from over 170 personal illustrations on Mother's Day. Join her from 1-3 pm, May 11, at Luce Line Brewing in Plymouth.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

A heartfelt thank you to *Sandy Hawley*, *Gordon Dosher*, and all involved for their work on the PPC Solar Panel Project!

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)

PPC Tour of *Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz*

Join us for a tour of *Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz* at the Minneapolis Institute of Art on Saturday, May 17, at 3pm. Organized by the Brooklyn Museum, "Giants" highlights nearly 100 significant works by Black diasporic artists, including *Gordon Parks*, *Jean-Michel Basquiat*, *Lorna Simpson*, *Amy Sherald*, and more. The exhibition reflects the Deans' passion for supporting established and emerging artists while fostering important dialogues about art, culture, and identity. For more info visit https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/giants

Questions? Contact Trina or the church office.
Schedule for Saturday, May 17
2:15 pm: Meet in PPC Parking Lot to Carpool to MIA
3:00pm: Tour
4:30pm: Reconvene back at PPC for discussion and treats
RSVP to Trina Reski: trina.reskI@gmail.com

Bark in the Park, Saturday, May 17, 9am-12 noon

PPC will be hosting a booth at Plymouth's *Bark in the Park* on Saturday, May 17, from 9am-12 noon at the Hilde Performance Center, 3500 Plymouth Blvd. This is a free event and a great outreach event for our community. We will be offering pet blessings, give-aways, and have pamphlets about our church available. Let *Jan Lillemo* know if you'd like to be involved.

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Statement of Activity
March 2025 Year-to-Date

	2025 Actual	Budget YTD	Difference	% Difference
Revenue				
Interest Income	5,766	3,750	2,016	54%
Per Capita Income	815	375	440	117%
Pledges	50,206	55,583	**(5,377)**	**-10%**
Unpledged Income	585	1,750	(1,165)	-67%
Total Revenue	**57,372**	**61,458**	**(4,086)**	**-7%**
Expenditures		-		
Christian Formation	117	125	(8)	-6%
Worship	115	350	(235)	-67%
Presbyterian Mission		150	(150)	-100%
Friends of Bloom		188	(188)	-100%
Fellowship	25	138	(112)	-82%
Total Building Expenses	15,514	19,626	**(4,112)**	**-21%**
Office Expenses	2,504	2,899		
Per Capita		1,300	(1,300)	-100%
Personnel Expense	36,716	38,165	**(1,450)**	**-4%**
Total Expenditures	**54,991**	**62,930**	**(7,939)**	**-13%**
Net Revenue	**2,381**	**(1,472)**	**3,853**	**-262%**

Interest income includes interest on "Sale Proceeds" which is used for operating expeses.

Generally the YTD budget is 3/12 of the annual budget so there may be some timing differences with revenues and expenses.

Please contact Dave Bahls or David Robertson, members of the Administrative Ministry Team of Session, or Carla Bahls, Treasurer, with any questions.

PPC Night Out

We hope you will join us for our next PPC Night Out on Thursday, May 1. We will be gathering at 6:00pm at Unmapped Brewery in Minnetonka. (Note: This is a change from the previously announced location.) Unmapped Brewery is at 14625 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka, 55345. www.unmappedbrewing.com/taproom/

JOIN US!

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) will meet on Wednesday, May 14, at 10:00am in the Fireside Room to discuss Lesson 8: Intergenerational Justice in this year's book, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* by Dr. Patricia K Tull.

Book Club meets May 28 in the Fireside Room. The May book is *Jacquline in Paris* by Ann Mah. Carla will be leading the discussion.

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

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

The Deacons' Auction raised over $3600 in funds!! Thanks to all who participated.

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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