



The Grapevine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower."

John 15:1

Calendar for March 15—29

Friday, March 15

10:30 a.m. Bloom Construction Meeting

Sunday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Friends of Bloom

10:45 a.m. Prayer Chain Group

Tuesday, March 19

12:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 20

9:30 a.m. GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Group

6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper

6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

7:00 p.m. Building and Grounds

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (cancelled)

Thursday, March 21

6:00 p.m. Bloom Board Meeting

Friday, March 22

10:30 a.m. Bloom Construction Meeting

Saturday, March 23

9:00 a.m. Quilting Bee

Sunday, March 24

9:30 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Quilting Bee

Monday, March 25

12:00 p.m. **Grapevine Deadline**

Tuesday, March 26

12:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 27

9:30 a.m. GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Group

1:00 p.m. Book Club

6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper

6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday March 29

10:30 a.m. Bloom Construction Meeting



From: Rev. Jeff Foels,
The text for Sunday,
March 10th was about
Jesus in the wilderness
for forty days. The

wilderness in Israel was the desert – more like Arizona high desert than Sahara sandy dunes, with rocks and dry vegetation that springs back to life when the rainy season comes. It can be hard to see ourselves in a desert in this land of 10,000 lakes...except for the months of the year when we're covered by snow. We can see a similar lifelessness outside. The green shoots and new buds might still be weeks away, and the snowy drifts do a good job of imitating the sandy dunes too.

When we're in wilderness places or desert places in our lives, we can know that God has been to the wilderness too. We can know that when we can't see the way through the blinding snow, God is with us. We know that when we are feeling overwhelmed in the persistent winter, God is with us. We know that God has been with us when the drifts tower over our heads, and we feel small. God is with us in our wilderness times, and sees us through.

We remain in prayer for Karen Kenzie and her family as her mother is on hospice in Florida. I am deeply grateful for the work of Kim Post in putting together the Grapevine and the bulletins, as well as to Melody Baker, Pat Johnson, Sally Ackerman, Lu Wilmot, and Carla Bahls for serving in the office and keeping us up to date while Karen is with her family.

Jeff

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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It's time to start Friends of Bloom!

We invite everyone who's interested whether you'd like to attend every time or occasionally, or be on a volunteer list for small or large projects.

We will meet after the service on **March 17th** for a brief meeting. Projects will include helping out with the shower on **April 6th**, having parties for the kids once we are up and running, maybe starting a food shelf for our families in need, doing an author visit in conjunction with Messiah Friends of Bloom and otherwise supporting the Bloom families and community.

If you can't make it and want to participate, let us know when you can schedule a monthly meeting, daytime, evening, weekend, day of the week?

No one is expected to attend every time. We are a community!

Penny Blankenship, Suzy Robertson, Janet Menary and others....

Plymouth Presbyterian Church

Bloom Early Learning & Child Care

Sunday Worship 9:30am
Visit plymouthpc.org



PPC NEW SIGN STATUS

Our Goal is to have the sign installed, powered up and programmed to display an Easter message by April 1st.



Bloom Early Learning and Child Care at Plymouth Presbyterian Church

As you know, we anticipate opening **Bloom Early Learning and Child Care** in **May 2019**. But you don't have to wait to get involved! **Volunteer today!**

- Quilters needed! We provide every child who comes to Bloom with a hand-made quilt to wrap them in love. Start now! We can share samples of what others have made to show the size.



- Join the Marketing Committee. We especially need people experienced in marketing, public relations, social media, writing, videography and photography. Share your talents with us!

- Sign up for one-time volunteer activities, such as stuffing envelopes or providing hospitality at an event.

For more information and to sign up, please contact **Melissa Musliner, Bloom Executive Director**, at melissa@bloomearlylearning.org or 612-325-2077.

More Room to Bloom

COMING MAY 2019



The New Bloom Early Learning Center will be located
@Highway 55 and Rockford Road



It's winter in Minnesota and cabin fever has set in. Here is the cure for you! Join us and others from Bloom Early Learning at the Twin Cities hottest new sports venue, **TOPGOLF**, for an afternoon of friendly competition and friend-raising.

Bloom Winter Golf Friend-Raiser
TopGolf, 6420 N. Camden Ave,
Brooklyn Center, MN
Sunday, March 17, 2019
3:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.

- Tournament play in climate controlled bays
- Buffet dinner and drinks
- Special \$10,000 Hole-In-One contest

Fun for beginners and advanced golfers

- Never played golf? No problem.
- Don't own clubs? Don't worry; we'll provide them.
- Like having fun with lots of friends/ This is the place to be.

This isn't a fundraiser—**Register today!**

Go to www.bloomearlylearning.org/whats-new or call 612-325-2077 to sign up for the Bloom Winter Golf Friend-Raiser. Cost per person is \$75 and includes three hours of golf, fun, buffet dinner and drinks. Be a friend and invite your friends to tee it up with you on March 17th (St. Patrick's Day).



Annual Deacons Auction!

This year's auction will be **Sunday, April 28th**, after worship and will feature silent and live auctions, delicious home baked goods, fun activities for the children, a tasty lunch, and fellowship. Proceeds this year will be donated to the mortgage (75%) and to mission (25%).

If you have items to donate to the auction (new items only please) contact a Deacon or the church office (office@plymouthpc.org). Donation forms are available in the Narthex. **Mark your calendars and plan to join us for fantastic fellowship, walking tacos, a bake sale, and an all-around good time!**



Lenten Wednesdays

Join us midweek during Lent for a simple soup supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by a short service of worship at

6:30 p.m. As we gather, we will be thinking of the journey through Lent as we consider the metaphor of a seed - preparing, planting, watering, seeking the light, growing, and blooming. Take up this Lenten practice together as we grow in community with each other.



Lenten Soup Suppers

We will be gathering together for a light soup supper at 6:00 p.m. A tentative menu is outlined below:

March 20th: Chicken & Wild Rice Soup

March 27th: Sausage & Tortellini Soup

April 3rd: Potato Soup

April 10th: Vegetable Beef Soup

Soups will be made with low sodium and reduced fat diets in mind. It's not a problem to include other special diet requests especially gluten-free, so please contact Janet Menary at 763-549-0055 or wimenary@gmail.com



Bloom Early Learning Update

The **Friends of Bloom/PPC** group will have an initial meeting after church on March 17th. All are welcome! If you can't attend but want to provide support for our new mission in small or big ways, please let Janet Menary or Suzy Robertson know.

Construction work has started on the **kitchen**. Until it is finished, slated for April 13, the kitchen is off limits to the congregation. All coffee supplies are in the kitchenette.

Center Director **Audrey Heavens** has been interviewing for an assistant director and teachers and finding prospective families. Bloom is accepting applications for children aged 6 weeks through 5 years from both scholarship and full-pay families. The center is opening May 15th. See Bloomearlylearning.org

On March 11th there was a meeting to explore the naturescape **playground** idea, using creative play areas where imagination is the driver. It will be a fenced-in area behind the Bloom classrooms.

There are two more **quilting** bee days to make the signature homemade napping quilts that Bloom children receive. All can attend and help on March 23rd and 24th. No experience necessary. Also, **painters** are needed to finish the sweat equity painting needs this same weekend.

Bloom's **Baby Shower** will be in the Fireside Room on April 6, from 10-12. This is a chance to let the greater community know about Bloom and to purchase items that will be needed, from sippy cups to rocking chairs. There are registries at Target (click on the tiny print to *find an organization*) and Amazon. Drop off your gift and share a cup of coffee, a tasty bite and some conversation. Abby Larson is leading this project!

Upcoming events include an **open house** for the prospective families April 30th and a ribbon **cutting ceremony** in early May, which will include the Twin-West Chamber of Commerce, Bloom friends and representatives from the Plymouth Area. This means you!

The big open house celebration will be the "get the scoop" **annual meeting** on June 13th with ice cream sundaes and tours from 7:00-8:30 with a VIP reception for capital campaign donors at 6:00. It was great fun last year envisioning what was to come. This year it will be even more joyful!

As with Messiah United Methodist Church, PPC will be credited with being a **Bloom Partner**. It is crucial for fund-raising to be clear that Bloom is not a religious institution, though of course the curriculum is values-based. For that reason, our site will be referred to as Bloom Early Learning at Dunkirk Lane N. and Rockford Road. Of course, for PPC's purposes this is a mission, and providing the use of our space is an outward sign of our passion for mission.

Thank you. Penny, Suzy and Janet



It's time for Minnesota Sandwich Project (formally 363) again!

Actually, with our camaraderie and our many hands, we make sandwiches **after church** for The Sandwich Project of Minnesota. Isn't that amazing?

The sandwiches will be distributed to hungry people on the 363 days of the year except for Thanksgiving and Christmas, when so many people are already involved in that cause.

Save the date **Sunday, April 7th** and plan to stay and be part of the fun.

Donations are welcome and Mission funds the rest.

Kyle Larson



March is MN Food Share Month

We join food shelves, other faith communities and organizations across Minnesota in acting to end hunger and food insecurity. MN Food Share is a statewide fund offering a great matching opportunity to stretch our gifts. For

every \$1 given and every pound of food donated during March, Minnesota FoodShare provides a percentage dollar match to IOCP, CROSS, ICA, PRISM or RiverWorks.

Ways for you to donate to MN food Share in March:

- Fill a bag for our local food shelf. Respond to food insecurity on our community by filling a grocery bag with much needed nonperishable food and household items.
- Monetary donations to IOCP, CROSS, ICA, PRISM or RiverWorks. There will be envelopes in the narthex and pews or if you would like to donate directly online. Local food shelves can often stretch your \$1 into enough food for 2 or more meals.



Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers will be available to be ordered on **March 24th, March 31st and April 7th**. April 7th will be the final date to order.

Please contact Sarah Kipp (763-404-2476 or email skipp17@comcast.net) for questions.



Calling all Quilters and those who want to learn!

We are having a couple of quilting bees to make toddler-sized quilts for the new PPC location for Bloom Early Learning and Child Care. The goal is to provide each child with a

handmade quilt for them to use at Bloom for naps and snuggle time. We had the first quilt bee last Saturday (9th). It was a great time! We are doing it again on March 23rd (9-5) and 24th (noon-5).

No experience required.

Please contact Janet Menary (763-549-0055 or email wimenary@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend or with questions. Anyone attending is encouraged to bring something to share for lunch.



Donate your shoes -clean your closets!

Ben Hollman & PPC youth are again leading a **Soles4Souls** shoe drive in **March & April**. They are

collecting used and new shoes. Last year they donated 125 pairs and are looking to double that this year! Please consider going through your closets and donating shoes no longer needed to **Soles4Souls**. We have a drop box set up in the coat room.

Used Shoes = New Opportunities

Your new and gently-worn shoes help individuals start and sustain small businesses to lift themselves out of poverty. Donated shoes are a viable resource to help entrepreneurs provide crucial necessities for their families.