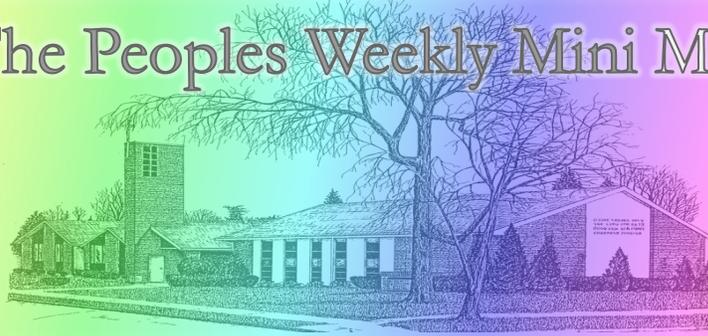


The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

We are swimming in uncharted waters.

None of us were alive the last time a pandemic of this magnitude hit the earth and seminary sure as heck didn't train me or any of my colleagues for an event anything like COVID-19.

We can't gather together for in-person worship for the time being and I can't tell you when that sad fact will change. In the meanwhile, I'm trying to create as many opportunities for engagement as I can. Some of you may have caught my first ever Facebook Live Wednesday evening prayer service, which I hope to make a regular event for as long as it is meaningful to our community. I also hope to have better audio quality for the next evening service, with an

external microphone ordered and coming soon. I have already hosted video conferences for several church committees to maintain their regularly scheduled meetings and I hope to set up more soon. Are you part of a committee with ideas to share, concerns to voice, or contingency plans to make? Let me know, and I'll set up a virtual meeting. Are you living alone or feeling lonely and missing the conversation at coffee hour? I would be happy to set up video conferences just for casual chit chat...we could all sit in our own homes, drinking coffee or tea, and catching up. Communication technology is blessing to our current situation.

For those of you spending more time than usual browsing

social media, Alayna and I have been posting as much positive content as we can. We know that there is a lot of scary news going around and that it can be overwhelming. If you are a person who watches the news on television, please change the channel every now and then to something more uplifting. Knowing the exact up-to-the-minute statistics won't keep you any healthier. If you are finding that your eyeballs are glued to reading news coverage of the spread of the virus, please take a moment to turn to the comics section, watch a live stream of otters playing, or look for some of the positive news that is happening (I promise that there IS positive news happening).

3/20/2020

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- COVID-19
 - Message From AIM
 - Family Updates
 - Christian Ed. Lenten Happenings
-

Pastor Leia Continued

Because we can't meet for in-person worship, I'm trying to come up with creative alternatives. Worship resources should be added to our website soon, hopefully allowing you to follow along with the service that I am trying to put together for Sunday morning. I'm even planning a socially distant--but physically present--service for Palm Sunday! My idea is that we could meet at our usual time for a "drive-through" service: each car will be handed a palm branch and a page of prayers as well as the day's gospel story, and then we can all drive around the neighborhood, waving our palms.

What would be meaningful to you in this uncertain season? How can I pray for you? Do you have other ideas of how to stay connected while we're apart? Please let me know!

I hope that we can make "mini Mouse" newsletters a regular item in your inbox

during our time apart. How are you filling your time? Are you working on a hobby, spending more time with pets, cleaning out an ancient closet, writing poetry, creating art, or anything else you might like to share? We'd love to include pictures of what you're doing or making! Heard any good jokes lately? We could use a laugh! Watched any good films? We would be happy to read your recommendations!

Know that I am praying for each and every one of you, that you stay healthy, that you stay connected, and that you stay strong in the faith. We will get through this. I will see all of you again.



CE Happenings

The beginning of the Lenten Season was celebrated with two Kings Cakes in honor of Mardi Gras on February 23. Chris Wetzler and Chuck Pratt were the two lucky ones who found a baby Jesus in their piece of Kings Cake. It is said that they will now have good luck for the coming year!

Fish banks were handed out to the congregation and youth on March 1st. Daylight Savings time brought out many kids and some adults in their pajamas as they just didn't have time to get dressed . . . We will be finding out just who St

Patrick was and why we celebrate the holiday. April 5 will be Palm Sunday and we will be re-enacting the Last Supper during CE class time. The youth will be making their own Hebrew Fry Bread to use during communion with Pastor Leia after worship service.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated with an annual Easter Egg Hunt at 9am on the church grounds. Don't miss the fun!! You can bring your own Easter basket or we always have paper bags that can be used.

We are continuing our series on the Bee-Attitudes in class as we walk through Jesus' teachings of

how our attitudes, as Christians, should be . . .

Believe it or not, it will be the 50th Anniversary for Earth Day on April 22!! The Youth are going to be making some special Earth Day projects to keep . . . and maybe even to sell . . . stay tuned!!

Dates to Remember:

May 3 - Youth Sunday

June 28 to July 2 - VBS with our United Methodist friends

(see article)



Knights of North Castle

Our Vacation Bible School will be Sunday, June 28 to Thursday, July 2 and the theme this year will be "Knights of North Castle". For the first time, we will be combining efforts with the Milan Memorial United Methodist Church to present this year's VBS.

The first year, the week-long event will be housed at the United Methodist Church. We will blend together our regular schedule, teachers, decorations, publicity, worship and music, technology science/crafts, snacks, recreation, financial expenses and general man power.

Both Pastors and Christian Education Committees from the two churches are excited and looking forward to working closely with each other. More details will be given as they are confirmed. Stay tuned!



Lenten Outreach Project

Our Lenten Outreach Project this year is the Milan Area School's Weekend Food Project. Many of the students who receive free breakfast and lunch during the school day do not have enough food at home for the same meals during the weekends. Aid in Milan collects necessary food items to fill backpacks for these students in need and hands them out every Friday. All of the following food items will be collected on a table in the Fellowship Hall all through Lent and then will be delivered after Easter.

In the backpacks are:

- 2 breakfast options - individual serving of cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, Pop Tarts
- 2 lunch options - boxes of Mac and cheese, canned soup or Spaghetti-Os
- 1 snack option - individual serving fruit snacks, cheese & crackers, fruit cups, applesauce
- 1 can of fruit
- 1 can of vegetable
- drinks - juice boxes, bottle water, hot cocoa mix

Donations of gift cards to Kroger or Meijer along with money donations are very welcomed. Aid in Milan will be able to purchase fresh milk and dairy items for the children. We filled 2 tables full of food last year . . . let's do it again!! We will do our best to make sure all the students of Milan are well nourished!!



CE Cont'd: The Family Fold

(Due to PPC's Worship & Coffee Hour Hiatus, we asked the families of our congregation to send any updates they might want to share with us. We will continue to do this while we practice social distancing. If there is anything you would like to share, please send to ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org)

The Ruperts:

"We are hunkered down at home. Softball is shut down right now because of the coronavirus but here are the details for Reese. She is on an 11 year old team that is part of the Finesse Fastpitch organization. Her team is Finesse Munoz (coaches last name is Munoz). Their record is 19-11 right now and they have played some very good older teams so they have been very challenged so far. She plays second base, third base and catcher for the most part.

Reese also tried out in February for the USSSA all star team for the Great Lakes region and made that team. They are scheduled to play in Florida in July (hopefully) and they play teams from different parts of the country."

- Jennifer Rupert



The Heeringas:

Here is a picture of Victoria and her trumpet in the Britton-Deerfield High School Band.

They received all 1's in District Competition and were slated to participate in the State Competition.

Victoria is a Sophomore and also plays volleyball and softball.

- Carol Heeringa





Well, it is time to say "Good Bye" to our adorable table snowman decorations that we have enjoyed all winter long!

They "appeared" on the tables in the Fellowship Hall for our Family Christmas Party in early December. The credit goes to Skip Lawver who professionally cut them out of wood (along with the cute "Dry Mittens \$.05 a Pair" sign). Steve and Sue Barney then painted and decorated each of them!

What a wonderful addition they were to our Fellowship time each Sunday! Thank you, Skip, Steve and Sue, we all appreciate your time and talent with these snowmen. They will be kept safe until next winter.

GO Soup-er Bowl Sunday!!

The youth celebrated Super Bowl Sunday with a play on words – collecting cans of soup for their own Soup-er Bowl drive.

Yay, the congregation, very generously, donated 83 cans of assorted soup for our February, Soup-er Bowl Sunday project. Two huge soup pots were overflowing with cans of soup and many bags were piled beside them. What huge smiles on the youth's faces as they try to hold them all!

Aid in Milan will be the recipient of all the cans of soup. It is our hope to warm all the families in Milan, who are in need, from the inside - out!

Thank you everyone for participating in our Soup-er Bowl Sunday collection.

Peoples Presbyterian Church

furnishes dessert for “the dinner for those in need“ the fourth Wednesday of every month. Warm meals along with friendly conversation and listening are provided. This weekly meal project is a shared mission project of several Detroit Presbytery churches in Washtenaw County. It is held at First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti. The December meal was actually held on Christmas Day. These delicious brownie treats were made by Carol Vollink and delivered by Bob Meyer. Each month, we furnish 80 treats. Carol Vollink and Bob Meyer will continue this with back-up support from Sue Barney and Jo Lawver, if needed. A big thank you also to Judy and Gordon Parker for the October treats. Just a reminder that this is an on-going Mission project of one of the ways PPC reaches out to show our love to our neighbors.

If there is anyone who wants to prepare dessert to donate or to deliver dessert, please contact **Sue Barney**.

subarney@comcast.net





Dear Community Faith Leaders,

Hello! I hope this email finds you well in the midst of the unprecedented COVID-19 situation. On behalf of the staff and board of AIM, I would like to extend a thank you for all of your support in serving the community. We truly could not make an impact without the generosity of local congregations. With that being said, I would like to take a moment to update you regarding our response to COVID-19 and resources that can be utilized by members of your congregation. Please know that we seek to assist in whatever ways possible during this time, and we welcome communication of any needs or ideas that you may have during this time.

I have attached a community information letter that you are welcome to share with any attendees you feel could utilize our services during this time. We have adjusted our operating procedures to reduce congregation in our food pantry area by now offering both clients and non-clients "Grab and Go" groceries that are brought out to the clients in parking lot (similar to the grocery pick-up services). While it is mainly food items (non perishables, meat, eggs, dairy, produce, and bread), we are also including toilet paper and bar soap as supplies last. Families with children also receive additional food bags to provide extra snacks and meals meant to supplement school district's food offerings during this time.

We are currently collaborating with Milan Seniors for Healthy Living (who has graciously offered use of their vans and professional staff) to identify individuals who are in need of food delivery to their homes. Individuals in our Pantry on Wheels program are generally over 60; but in this instance, we are waiving age requirements to ensure all members of our community do not face food insecurity. If you have a member of your congregation that could benefit from this, please feel free to pass this service along to them by giving them our phone number (734-439-8420) or by reaching out to me via my cellphone (740-815-5576) or email. Depending upon the need for this service, we anticipate possibly reaching out to community members who might be interested in delivering (all food would be left outside front door).

As time goes on, we anticipate that closures and/or extended time away from workplaces will cause a financial strain on families. We do offer assistance with government benefit applications (through MIBridges) and offer income-qualified individuals assistance with assistance if necessary (generally no more than \$400/household/year). Again, we will be keeping updated records of changes in government/utility requirements and policies as time goes on.

Once again, thank you so much for your support!

Best,

Mackenzie Mace

Executive Director, Aid in Milan

Since the youth were not able to hand these shamrocks out to you here is your
Saint Patrick's Blessing :

"May your blessings outnumber
the shamrocks that grow.
And may trouble avoid you
wherever you go."



In the Plews Household:

Missy, the cat, has discovered the pedal steel guitar case. We thought the top compartment was for the legs, but Missy insists it is actually a CAT compartment. She does fit quite perfectly.

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Pastor's Email: ppcpastor@peoplespresbyterian.org

Website: www.peoplespresbyterian.org

Worship:

Streamed Weekly on Facebook Live
at 10:00 am every Sunday

Prayer Service:

Streamed Live each Wednesday on
Facebook Live at 6:00 pm