



# The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



## Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

4/26/2020

Volume 1, Issue 5/6

Everything does not happen for a reason and God did not concoct this pandemic to punish us, to test us, to teach us something, or for any other purpose.

Not everything has a reason or a purpose. Not all questions can be answered.

We believe, above all things, that there is one God and that our God is fundamentally good: God is the essence of goodness itself, and of love, and of welcome, and of grace. We believe in God because God is good, and loving, and welcoming, and full of grace. We do not believe in God because God gives us easy answers, or solid comforting answers, or even vague answers. We believe in God because we believe that God is greater than

all things, that God made all of creation, and that God loves all people.

Good things do not always happen to people who deserve them and bad things do not always happen to people who deserve them, either. It isn't fair, but it is a fact of the universe nonetheless.

I hope that you are managing to find bits of joy these days. I hope that you are finding yourself reconnecting with people--over phone or video calls, through social media, across a backyard fence, by snail mail, or any other way. I hope that you are finding yourself able to do something that you enjoy, whether that's an old hobby, books, Netflix binges, card games, art, cooking, exercise, or anything

else. I hope that you are maintaining hope.

But I also want to remind you, in case you need to hear it, that it is okay to fall apart. It is okay to despair in what the future might bring. It is even okay to be angry at God. You can do all of those things while still steadfastly believing in our God who is good and loving and welcoming and full of grace. Even Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus--even knowing that he held the power to bring him back from the dead. There is an awful lot going on around us that is truly tragic and it is only human to grieve those tragedies.

Our faith is not built on solid, comforting answers. There is far too much complexity in the universe to expect

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor Message 1-2

The  
Caring  
Corner 3

Family Fold 4

A Note from the  
Treasurer 5

New Online  
Giving Options! 6

Activities from  
the Pastor 7

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Online Giving
- Family Updates
- Essential Members
- Coloring

## Pastor Leia Continued

simple explanations at the foundations of it all. But I can promise you this: no matter what happens, God loves you and God is with you. God has seen us through times of pandemic before and somehow, God will see us through again.



Save

### The Earth Is the Lord's



1. "The earth is the Lord's and the ful - ness there - of."  
 2. Your rain - for - ests nur - ture the world that we share.  
 3. Too of - ten, O God, we a - buse your good earth.  
 4. May we be good stew - ards of all that you give,

Cre - a - tion re - minds us, O God, of your love.  
 Your wet - lands give an - i - mals shel - ter and care.  
 We fail to re - mem - ber its beau - ty and worth.  
 pro - tect - ing cre - a - tion wher - ev - er we live.

By grace we are learn - ing, as year leads to year,  
 Your cor - al reefs cra - dle the life of the sea.  
 We take from cre - a - tion much more than we need,  
 May we be a church that re - news and re - stores

we're called to be stew - ards, your care - tak - ers here.  
 You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be.  
 We threat - en your world through in - dif - ference and greed.  
 and lov - ing - ly cares for this earth that is yours.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2001  
 MUSIC: Welsh melody from John Roberts's *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839

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## Caring Corner

### People's Prayer List

#### Essential Workers:

Medical Staff - **Diane Glover**, nurse at St. Joes Hospital  
**Kim Heeringa**, clinical subject coordinator/microbiologist, at the 1000-bed field ward  
**Shane Bookout**, paramedic  
**Bob Sitz**, pharmacist, at State Hospital and Herrick Hospital  
**Becky Sitz**, works at the pharmacy at U of M Hospital  
**Lisa Pratt**, works in the patient laboratory at VA Hospital

**Staci Bashaw**  
**Jennifer Bookout**  
**Lori and son Jesse Fugate**  
**Tony Gehring**  
**Stacy and Larry Johnson**  
**Kerri Morrow**  
**Alayna Plews' father, Terry Plews**  
**Vicky and Richard Gehring**  
**Al and Albert Clarke**  
**Justin Fugate**  
**Ryan Cranson**  
**Jessica Cranson**  
**Jacob Cranson**  
**Travis Cranson**

#### Laid Off Workers:

**Jenny Bellers**  
**Phil Marteney**  
**Jason Marteney**  
**Linda Cranson**  
**Rob Cranson**

**Diane and Carole found  
these delightful songs to  
brighten your time at  
home!:**

**COVID DO-RE-MI:**

[https://  
www.facebook.com/675514609/  
posts/10158793892604610/?  
sfnsn=mo](https://www.facebook.com/675514609/posts/10158793892604610/?sfnsn=mo)

**FAVORITE THINGS:**

[www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=1aAnPFeo11s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aAnPFeo11s)

Please let us know if you are aware of any other Essential Workers or those who are laid off.



Some pictures of the beautiful hats made by  
Mary Huber and Nancy Kuzniar for the  
Hats for Cancer initiative



# 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](mailto:ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org))

**Hi CE Families,**

We would love to have you share some of your "at home" activities with the church so we can put them in our weekly Mini Mouse.

Let us know what you are doing —playing outside, with your pets, riding your bike or scooter, playing video games, baking, dancing and singing, homework . . . anything that is keeping you busy we want to know.

Pictures are fantastic if you have any . . . Let's "see" each other even though we are all at our homes.

Get your items in by Saturday morning if you can (otherwise we will be happy to include them in next week's edition.)

**Stay healthy and happy!!**

Love ya,  
Carole

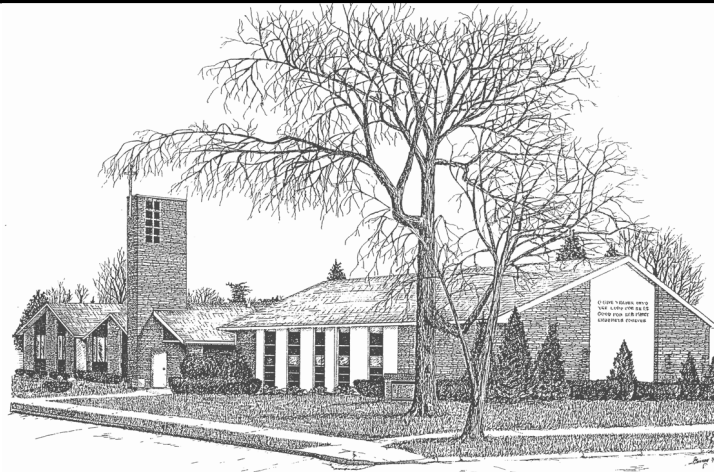
**RIGHT:**

Mason Morrow is keeping busy with Easter fun, sandboxes, and some indoor camping!



**LEFT:**

Madisyn and Jaidyn Fital display bees that go along with the Bee Attitudes lessons they have been working on



## **A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:**

Regarding New Charitable Deduction—

The recently enacted CARES Act provides for a new \$300 charitable deduction for individuals starting with the 2020 individual tax return (to be filed in 2021). Taxpayers who are unable to itemize their deductions due to the increased standard deductions may deduct up to \$300 of charitable donations on their federal income tax return. This deduction is taken in arriving at Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and will reduce taxable income and the resulting income tax. This deduction will reduce the income tax based on the individual's tax bracket. A taxpayer in the 12% federal tax bracket will save \$36 ( $\$300 \times 12\%$ ) federal tax. The deduction reduces AGI which is the starting point for Michigan Individual Income Tax so it will also reduce Michigan income tax by 4.25% (Michigan tax rate) for a savings of \$12.75. Total federal and Michigan tax savings of \$48.75 based on a \$300 maximum deduction.

Taxpayers who itemize their deductions may not utilize the \$300 CARES deduction; they must itemize all charitable as an itemized deduction. Michigan Treasury has not reacted to this new deduction at this writing. Michigan Treasury could require that the CARES deduction be added-back in calculating Michigan income tax, eliminating the \$12.75 maximum savings. Time will tell.

Best wishes,

Chris Wetzler, Treasurer



## NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS FROM THE PRESBYTERY:

The donation page has been established for Peoples Presbyterian Church. Alayna and Chris can access information on PPC's funds online—such as donor information and reports. To view transactions, fees, interest earned, and disbursement history, fund administrators can log in and can answer any questions you may have regarding your donations.

Members and donors can choose to give either by going to the Peoples Presbyterian homepage and clicking on the "Give Now" button at the very top of the page:



Or you can download the GivePlus Mobile App by following the link below and following the instructions in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAjqUxK8YRk>

As well as written instructions here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XmuWCTg81uPiGh898jWFIoR02K36QW-z/view?usp=sharing>

You can read additional FAQs regarding this new donor option here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KRXiUz\\_Eo56ly2XgmGSG7J0ZquD5c7v2/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KRXiUz_Eo56ly2XgmGSG7J0ZquD5c7v2/view?usp=sharing)

**If you have additional questions, feel free to contact Alayna at anytime at either the church office or Alayna's cell: (616)-490-1799.**

# GAMES and ACTIVITIES



## Peoples Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's Email: [ppcpastor@peoplespresbyterian.org](mailto:ppcpastor@peoplespresbyterian.org)

Website: [www.peoplespresbyterian.org](http://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 8:00 pm