

Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

What about church do you find yourself missing the most?

If you'd asked me three months ago, "What would you miss the most if you were unable to attend church for an extended period of time?" I think I probably would have said something about getting to participate in ancient rituals, layering my voice on top of the voices of countless millions of people of faith who have gone before me. I almost certainly would have waxed poetic about the profound beauty of receiving communion. Maybe I would have recalled the satisfaction of offering something lovely to God, like the tablecloth I helped embroider by hand for my church in Washington, DC, or the delicately harmonized

anthems I once sang with my home church choir, or just the feeling of standing in the warm rainbow light of our stained glass windows.

But now, as much as I miss the beauty and as much as I yearn for communion, I think I'm finding that what I miss the most is the voices.

I miss hearing someone else read the morning's scripture. I miss hearing dozens of voices fall together into the familiar cadence of the Lord's prayer. And I think that, most of all, I miss being able to say, "peace be with you!" and hearing the words "and also with you."

When I sit in the spare bedroom that was once my craft room, filled with neatly labeled boxes of colored papers and costume pieces and spools of thread (now neglected and pushed aside out of the camera's frame of vision), I find myself nervously beginning Sunday services with the words "Good morning" instead of "Peace be with you." The absence of an echoed "good morning" is easier to bear than the absence of the words "and also with you."

To say "Good morning" is familiar, and welcomingly everyday, the expression of hope. To say "Peace be with you" is scriptural, and sacredly special, the giving of a blessing.

My craft room doesn't feel like a sacred space, for all that I've tried. I know that God hears me, but talking to my camera feels like talking into a void. I miss the echo of blessings, the unison prayers that feel 4/26/2020

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OF INTEREST:

- Essential Members
- Word Search

Pastor Leia Continued

like an embrace, the voices that come together to enter God's courts with praise.

I suppose that all of this is just a long way to say a simple sentence:

Peoples,..I miss you.



O God, As We Pause ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

O God, as we pause from our usual ways, as millions stay home, as we count passing days, may we learn what matters—what really has worth. May we seek your reign as we live here on earth.

May we find your blessings in small, common things; may we learn the joy that community brings. In loving our neighbors, in stopping to pray, may we know your presence in each passing day.

God, may we reflect on a world that has changed a world where our values have been rearranged. For those who once thought they could stand by themselves

now value the workers who restock the shelves.

As greed and injustice are being laid bare, may we build a nation that's loving and fair. God, give us the courage to change what we can, to work for the justice that's part of your plan.

So, turn us around, Lord, to make your world new; May we seek, in all things, to first follow you. In change and in sorrow may we seek your reign. O God, in our pausing, restore us again!

Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in John Robert's Caniadau y Cyssegr (Songs of the Sanctuary), 1839 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise") Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

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**

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

Christian Education

Hello Peoples!

Here is the latest information regarding our joint VBS effort with United Methodist Church in Milan:

As you know, when we met with the Methodists about a month ago, we changed our dates to August, knowing full well that they might not be good either.

So, at our meeting last Thursday with the Methodists, we decided to cancel joint VBS for this coming summer of 2020. The curriculum is great, and we were moving along with great ideas Before Covid (BC), so we do not want to try to have VBS knowing that there will be people who will not feel comfortable coming to an optional evening program (that person could be me...). We will reconvene next year, in 2021, and pick up where we left off.

Thanks for all your interest and willingness to work at VBS. We will have a great time next year!

Hope this finds you all healthy and happy!!

Take care,

Carole

Give blood. Help save lives.

Dear Peoples People,

As many of you already know, we are in the beginning stages of becoming a Blood Drive Host through a partnership with the American Red Cross.

However, we cannot proceed or establish a date until I can provide the ARC with <u>30 names of interested</u> donors.

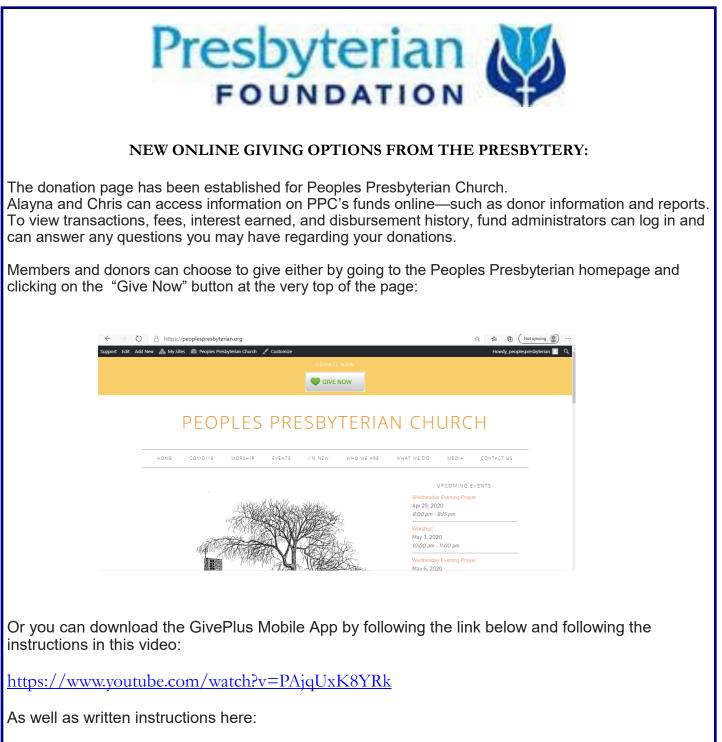
I have been in contact with Michigan's booking representative, Christina Warbington. She has briefed me on all of the precautions being implemented around donations during the pandemic, and I assure you that ARC is well-prepared and will not let us conduct any of this unless they have deemed it completely safe. Ms. Warbington was so thrilled to hear of our interest as there is an urgent need for donations currently. **So, here is where you can help. As I mentioned, our first step to becoming a Blood Drive host is to procure 30 names of people who can commit to donating.** I am including, at the end of this newsletter, the ARC interest sign-up sheet as well as the Blood Donation Fact sheet for any and all of you to use freely. You may also call and leave me a voicemail at the office number provided on the last page of this newsletter, or since I am often working from home, **please feel free to call my cell as well: (616)-490-1799.**

Lastly, while we are hoping for a good response in potential donors, we also want to ensure that the health and safety of our community are TOP priority. Many of you have already reached out to inform me of health or other reasons you cannot donate, and that is fine. We are not asking you to do anything you can't do. If you still want to help but can't donate, please feel free to disseminate this information and the sign-up sheet to any and all in the community who you think would be capable and interested. Even if you are in good health to your knowledge, PLEASE review the links below thoroughly regarding donor criteria and

eligibility before signing up: https://www.redcrossblood.org/donateblood/how-to-donate/types-of-blooddonations/whole-blood-donation.html https://www.redcrossblood.org/ fag.html#eligibility

Thank you in advance,. Wishing you health and happiness, Alayna Plews, Office Administrator





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

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

Books of the Bible



Peoples Presbyterian Church 210 Smith Street Milan, MI 48160

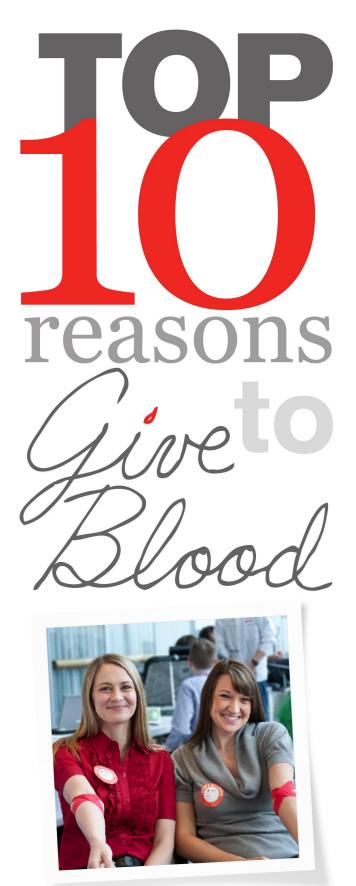
Pastor: The Reverend Leia Rose Battaglia

Phone: (734) 439-1922

Church Email: ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org 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 8:00 pm





American Red Cross

You will get juice and cookies.

It's easy and convenient. It only takes about an hour to give whole blood, and you can make your donation at an American Red Cross blood donation center or one of many blood drives held at businesses, community centers, schools or places of worship.

You will weigh less. One pint less than when you came in!

It's something you can spare. Most people have blood to spare, yet there is still not enough to go around.

No one can ask you to do heavy lifting. As long as you wear your bandage, you're on reprieve. Wear it as long as you like. It's a badge of honor!

You will walk a little taller afterward. Most people feel good about themselves knowing they've just helped save someone's life. You will too!

You will be helping to ensure that blood is there when it's needed. Most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do. One whole blood donation can yield up to three blood products: red cells, platelets and plasma.

You will give a gift that costs nothing, but last a lifetime. Blood is something money can't buy. It's only something that one person can give to another.

You will be someone's hero. You may give a newborn, a child, a mother or father, a brother or a sister another chance at life. In fact, you can help save up to three lives with just one donation!

It's the right thing to do!

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | 🖬 facebook.com/redcrossblood

Would you help save up to three lives?



Our organization would like to sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive at our location, but we need to make sure we have enough people to donate blood before we can commit. We support and encourage you to take time to give blood; a simple way to make a difference in someone's life. Your one blood donation can help save up to three lives.

Please sign up below if you are interested in participating in our Red Cross blood drive.

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Sponsoring Organization: Organization Name Here

Contact Name: Contact name

Proposed blood drive date: MM/DD/YY

Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Save time with RapidPass

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to give blood. Please bring positive ID when you come to donate. ©2018 The American National Red Cross | 148925/186201