



# The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



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

Volume 1, Issue 16

have always loved princess stories. One of my favorite gifts that I've ever received was a copy of "The Twelve Dancing Princesses" that my grandfather gave when I was small. There were not one, but TWELVE princesses on almost every single page, and twelve sets of gowns and shoes to boot. It's not my favorite princess story--I was always sad that the princesses lost their freedom and independence when the gardener discovered their secret and the magic that held their midnight dances together fell apart (my favorite princess story is Cinderella, but that's a tale for another day).

My grandmother was a smart woman, and she managed to take my interest in princess stories and direct it towards the lives of real women in positions of power. Eleanor Roosevelt was one of her favorites, and Shirley Temple Black, and Juliette Gordon Low (the founder of the girl scouts), and Julia Morgan (the architect who designed Hearst Castle), and of course, both of my great-grandmothers, who were both teachers. My grandfather's mother, whom I very barely remember meeting, earned a masters degree in 1935, while raising three sons and living through the Great Depression. But as I grew up, I kept being drawn to stories of princesses and queens and women who wear tiaras. In school, I kept finding ways to write papers on Queen Elizabeth I and

Queen Victoria and Princess Liliuokalani and Anne Boleyn. I stayed up all night to watch William and Catherine's wedding in college. I have framed photographs of Grace Kelly, princess of Monaco, hanging over the fireplace in the manse. As much as I love fancy dresses and sparkly things and fashion history, what is even more alluring is the idea of having a voice that cannot be silenced. For many women, that can be a very hard goal to achieve.

Next week falls July 20th, a date that is always marked in my calendar because it is the commemoration day of perhaps my favorite historical princess of all, even if she's one that most people probably aren't familiar with. Her name is Wilgefortis, and for centuries, she has been honored as a saint and a martyr. I've found ways to remember Wilgefortis on July 20th for years, but this year, since she is, after all, a religious figure, I want to share her story with you.

Wilgefortis is the patron saint of women in difficult situations--relationships that seem impossible to escape, oppression that can't be stopped, beauty and societal standards that reduce women to being objects and not people. She may have only a small following, but she is depicted in Westminster Abbey, and for some women, she is as much of an icon as Eleanor Roosevelt was to my grandmother.

Her story is bizarre (perhaps comically

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## Pastor Leia Continued

so) and miraculous (God heard and answered her prayer) and sad (in a way that far too many women's stories have been) and of course, very very medieval (literally). But whether or not we as Presbyterians revere saints in the same way that we might have done before the Protestant Reformation, I think that we can still learn a lot from the stories of religious figures who have left a mark on their communities and on history.

If you'd like to hear Wilgefortis' story, I invite you to join me on Monday night to pray and to remember a woman whose story begins much like I always wanted any good princess story to begin:

"Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess who wanted to dedicate her life to God..."



To  
Leia



# Happening This Week

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## Thursday, July 16, 1-3pm:

virtual cancer hat group on zoom <https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/hats-for-cancer-2020-07-16/>

## Thursday, July 16, 5pm:

virtual fellowship on zoom <https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-cocktail-hour-2020-07-16/>

## Sunday, July 19, 10am:

Worship on Facebook Live followed by virtual fellowship on zoom <https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2020-07-19/>

## Monday, July 20, 8pm:

Special evening prayer service for the feast day of St Wilgefortis on Facebook Live

## Tuesday, July 21, 8pm:

Bible study on Facebook Live

## Wednesday, July 22, 8pm:

Evening prayer on Facebook Live



## PROTECTING THE PPC CONGREGATION

At the Stated Session meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, the Elders voted unanimously to extend online worship through the month of August, and to discuss the subject again at the August 19, 2020 Session meeting.

The Session is responsible for the dates, times, and location of church worship services, and the pastor is responsible for the content of those services.

# A Message From The Treasurer

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## The SECURE Act and More Tax Changes!

Selected Provision that may be of interest:

**Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)** – RMDs are required distributions from IRAs and other qualified plans. The amount of the required distribution is based on age and a factor from a standard mortality table. The factor increases each year based on age. The factor is applied to the balance in the plan at the end of the previous year to calculate the amount of the RMD. The RMD must be distributed by the end of the current year. A 50% penalty can be assessed for not meeting the RMD. Before the Act, individuals were required to begin RMDs starting in the year they reached age 70 ½. The Act raised the retirees' beginning age of RMDs from IRAs and other qualified plans from 70 ½ to 72. It applies to retirees reaching age 70 ½ after 12/31/2019. Generally, RMDs are considered ordinary income subject to tax.

**Age Restriction on Contributions** - For tax years beginning after 12/31/2019 the Act eliminated the age restriction for IRA contributions. Previously, individuals could not make deductible contributions to their retirement plans in or after any tax year in which they reached age 70 ½. Older individuals who are still working now may continue to make deductible contributions even if past age 70 ½.

**Elimination of Stretch IRAs** – This is a complex technical provision that was included to help pay for the other SECURE Act changes. Basically, persons who inherit an IRA have a much shorter time frame in which to include the value of the inherited IRA their income than before the Act.

The Act allows distributions from a 529 Plan (college savings plan) to be used to pay principal and interest on certain student loans up to a lifetime limit of \$10,000. In addition, 529 Plans may now be used to pay for fees, books and supplies, and equipment for certain apprenticeship programs.

—Chris Wetzler, Treasurer



## Peoples Presbyterian Church

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### **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

