



The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Weekly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Volume 1, Issue 18

I've always particularly enjoyed writing prayers for specific occasions--our annual Longest Night service, a close friend's wedding, an interfaith meal, a funeral. There is a beautiful intimacy in being able to weave the words, stories, and imageries of a single family or seasonal theme or group of people into our conversation with God. Most Sunday prayers are fairly general, praying for the world, entire communities, and recent events (and those are good and important prayers!), but different conversations with God call for different tones. We have prayers of praise, prayers that God's will be done (even if we don't understand it), prayers for the wellbeing of ourselves and others, prayers of confession, prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for strength to do the right thing, and so on and so forth, all the way up to Heaven, where God will always hear. In case you missed it, I wanted to share with you this week parts of the prayer I wrote for the special St. Wilgefortis service I held in July (you can find links to both the full service video and an audio file of the story of Wilgefortis on our website, peoplespresbyterian.org, under COVID-19 > index of all online services).

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God of the ages, since the beginning, people have called out to you when they were in need. No matter how

bleak our futures seem, we trust in you. We add our prayers to those whispered by the saints of all the ages past. We remember Wilgefortis, who for centuries has inspired those encumbered by forced marriage, those seeking liberation from abuse, violence, and oppression, those who were ahead of their times, those who have not always been seen as valuable, those who have been met with scorn for not being beautiful enough, or graceful enough, or young enough, or dainty enough, or rich enough; those who have never measured up to the unrealistic standards they were judged by; those who have desperately wanted something more, something better; whether or not it was possible to reach; those who have heard your call but been held back; those who have died because they could not live without being true to themselves; those whom societies have backed away from in disgust; those who have been denied their dreams because they were seen as inconvenient or unnatural or unworthy or unlovable (as if any person could ever be beyond the scope of your love). We remember Wilgefortis, because as bizarre as her story may seem to us today, we hear in it the voices of all those who are still crying out for miracles even when it seems too late to clasp onto desperate hope because you will never let us go.

Loving God, in this season of loneliness, we remember those, like

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### Special points of interest:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
  - Support Milan Area Schools
  - Member Birthday
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## Pastor Leia Continued

Wilgefortis, who feel isolated and alone, weighed down by guilt or grief by depression or despair by fear or suffering of any kind. Regardless of whatever situation might keep us physically apart, let us never forget or neglect our siblings in Christ who long to be welcomed into communion.

Compassionate God, turn our faces towards those who inhale injustice and fear with every breath. Forgive us for the times when we have been complicit and strengthen and encourage us to do right by the oppressed, to establish justice, to provide equal protection, and to offer opportunities to all people, regardless of the second- or third- class status that our society might give them regardless of our first impressions of them regardless of how alien their stories might sound to us.

Give us the courage to stand by our convictions and answer your call no matter the price. Help us to speak up for what is right and what we believe in even when it isn't comfortable; even when it would be easier to keep quiet and just go along; even when we are being pushed to do what is easy, rather than what is right. Help us to make a world in which women are celebrated for their faith and not crucified for it; a world in which young people have options set before them and the freedom to choose their own paths. Help us to remember the stories of figures like Wilgefortis who inspire the people on the margins and who challenge us to consider the other kinds of stories we might not be familiar with.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who, like Wilgefortis, was hung on a cross, and who often surprises us in the company he keeps, in the people he embraces, and in the unexpected and occasionally hairy ways he sometimes answers prayers. Amen.



To  
Leia



To our local community businesses and organizations:

In working with the school's vision statement, "partnering together as a community all individual's will achieve their greatest potential," the Milan Rotary Club is working with a team of community members in conjunction with Aid in Milan to put together Big Red Bundles to help the students in our community achieve that great potential. In these unprecedented times the students will need individual school supplies to make this a successful school year. We want to create an exciting start to this school year and promote the belief statements of Milan Area Schools which include providing a safe and nurturing environment whether this environment is in school, hybrid or virtual.

While we recognize these economic times have been extremely difficult, we know how strongly our community cares for the students in our schools and would like to offer an opportunity to partner with us. Our intention is to not put further financial strain on anyone, and we completely understand if the timing is not right for you or your organization. Below you will find a breakdown of the investment per student by school. That investment would allow students who may not have access to individual school supplies to start the year off as a success. We are looking for monetary donations to decrease handling of objects to promote health and safety and allow the opportunity to provide bundles that contain the same items including amount and brand for each supply. The bundles will be specific to each of the four schools. The items in each bundle are based on the necessity for those schools and the student's success based on input from the school's principals. Continuing with the belief statements of MAS we want to invest in the student capacity to learn and in personal success. The investment changes per school due to the cost of the items requested in each bundle.

Paddock Student: \$13.00

MMS Student: \$15.50

Symons Student: \$15.50

MHS Student: \$20.00

For any business, organization, church or family that partners with us financially their name will be placed on a sponsor page included in the bundles along with a public thanks through social media. Donors of any size will receive an official "Big Red Bundle 2020" support decal. If you would like to join with us you can send a check by August 15th, with designation for Big Red Bundle to the Milan Rotary Club at: P.O. Box 8 Milan, MI 48160. You can also make an online donation through our gofundme at: <https://tinyurl.com/bundles2020>

Name how you would like it listed on promotional materials:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address for support decal:

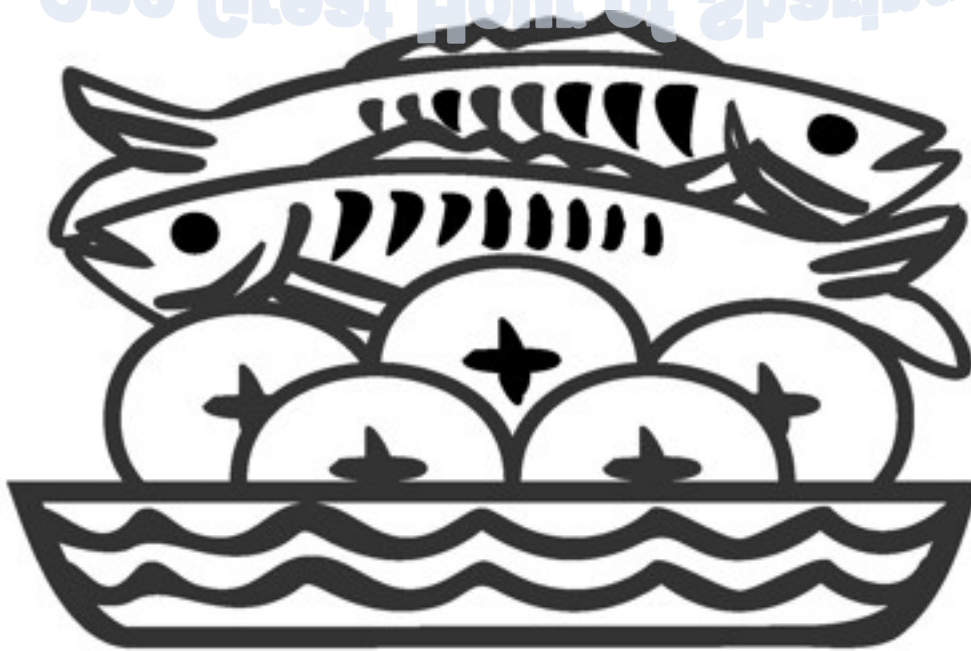
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Thank you for your consideration in partnering with us to support the students in our community.

The Milan Rotary Club



## One Great Hour of Sharing



Dear Congregation!

We would like to collect fish banks for **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

As of today , Wednesday, August 5th, there will be a rubbermaid bin sitting under the eaves of the side door, closest to the church office, **from 10 am-4 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays until August 19th. No need to come inside.** You may leave your contribution there, and the Office Administrator will be watching and bringing them in as they arrive throughout the day.

In addition to those weekdays, I will also be present in the Peoples parking lot on **Fridays and Saturdays from noon- 1pm** for the next few weeks. I will be wearing a mask and using a 6 foot net to make the collection! We hope to see your fish soon!

Blessings and safety to you all,

Chad Lawver



Here is a photo of Dawn Sinclair's mother-in-law, Barbara Sinclair.

Barb celebrated her 96th birthday last Friday and had a socially distanced birthday celebration last weekend at her house. She's doing well and misses seeing everyone at church. If people want to send cards or email her just to say hello, that'd be greatly appreciated. **Emails or cards are preferred ! :)**

## Peoples Presbyterian Church

210 Smith Street Milan, MI 48160

*Pastor: The Reverend Leia Rose Battaglia*

Phone: (734) 439-1922

Church Email: [ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org](mailto:ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org)

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