



The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Weekly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Volume 1, Issue 19

We have another guest writer for our newsletter this week! One of my colleagues in ministry, the Rev. Alina M. Kanaski, wrote this lovely article and gave me permission to share it with you all. Pastor Alina serves two churches: Chartiers Valley United Presbyterian Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, both in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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I started a new practice a few weeks ago. I started writing down every time I experienced a sacrament. I write it on a slip of paper, fold it in half, and put it in my M&M Star Wars mug. A word of explanation: John Calvin wrote (somewhere in Institutes of Christian Religion): "the term sacrament ... embraces generally all those signs which God has ever enjoined upon men to render them more certain and confident of the truth of his promises." That is, a sacrament is any moment when we feel God's presence, any moment when we are reminded of God's truth and determine to keep going the way that God has set before us. A sacrament, then, is not just that moment when we come up for communion or see a baby being baptized. It is any moment that

God uses something tangible to remind us of God's grace for us. (John Calvin is by far not the only one to argue this; his writings were just the first time I encountered this idea.)

I'm not just writing down when I receive communion, then. I'm writing down any time I receive God's grace, any time that something I can see or touch reminds me that God is with me. Here's some of the entries:

- watching a squirrel have what looked like the time of its life while I'm saying the communion liturgy
- a big, long hug during the passing of the peace
- unexpected texts from a friend
- Psalm 51:6 : "You desire truth in my inmost being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart."
- writing a message in a greeting card
- hearing the stories of the good, good work of midwives in Haiti, who are helping make better lives for mothers and children
- talking about good movies with the librarian

I just grabbed the mug and dumped it out to make that list, and I was surprised at how many sacramental moments I've recorded since I started. I feel like I keep forgetting this project for days at a time, but still the number of times that I've been reminded of God's love since

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### Inside this issue:

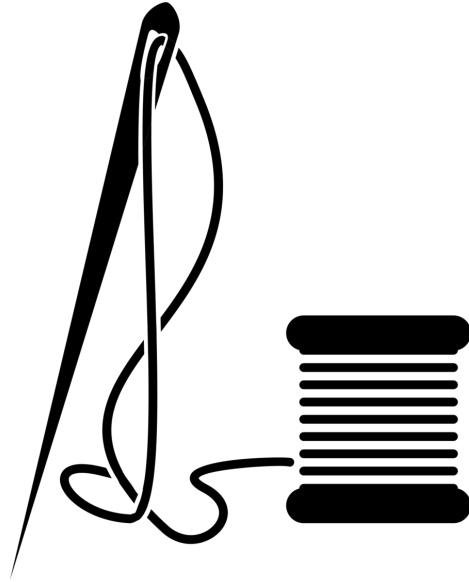
|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Manse Cat Monthly - Pastor Leia | 1-2 |
| A Message from your Treasurer   | 3   |
| Mission & Outreach              | 4   |
| Family Fold                     | 5   |
| Blood Drive                     | 6   |

### Special points of interest:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
  - ARC Blood Drive
  - Family Fold
  - Taxes
-

## Pastor Leia Continued

I started is more than I remembered. Maybe that's the real value of a project like this: I have physical proof that God has been with me, that I have felt God around me even when I haven't been very attentive, even when I've forgotten about this project for days at a time, even when I've been so busy. And I can begin to wonder about all the ways that God was present when I wasn't noticing.



## Unemployment Benefits

### Beware - The Tax Man Cometh!



Just a note to remind those receiving unemployment benefits, including the extra \$600 per week, that all those benefits are taxable income. Unemployment compensation/benefits are considered compensation and are taxable on your federal return and are also taxable on your Michigan return. The problem is that there is no tax withholding on these benefits so they could cause an unpleasant surprise when you file your tax returns next spring.

You should receive a Form 1099-G on or before January 31, 2021 detailing the taxable unemployment benefits paid to you in 2020.

If the amount due exceeds certain amounts, penalties and interest could be assessed.

The articles that I have read suggested three ways to deal with the taxes:

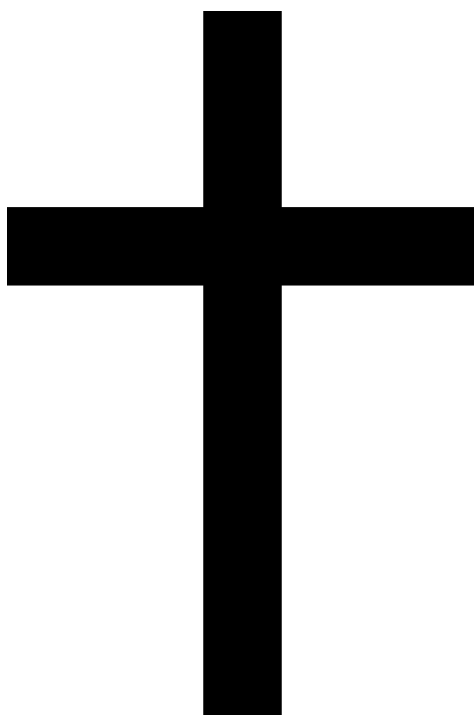
Contact your state unemployment agency and see how to initiate tax withholding to prepay the taxes. This is likely covered somewhere on their web site.

Make quarterly estimated tax payments to prepay the taxes. See IRS Form 1040-ES and instructions.

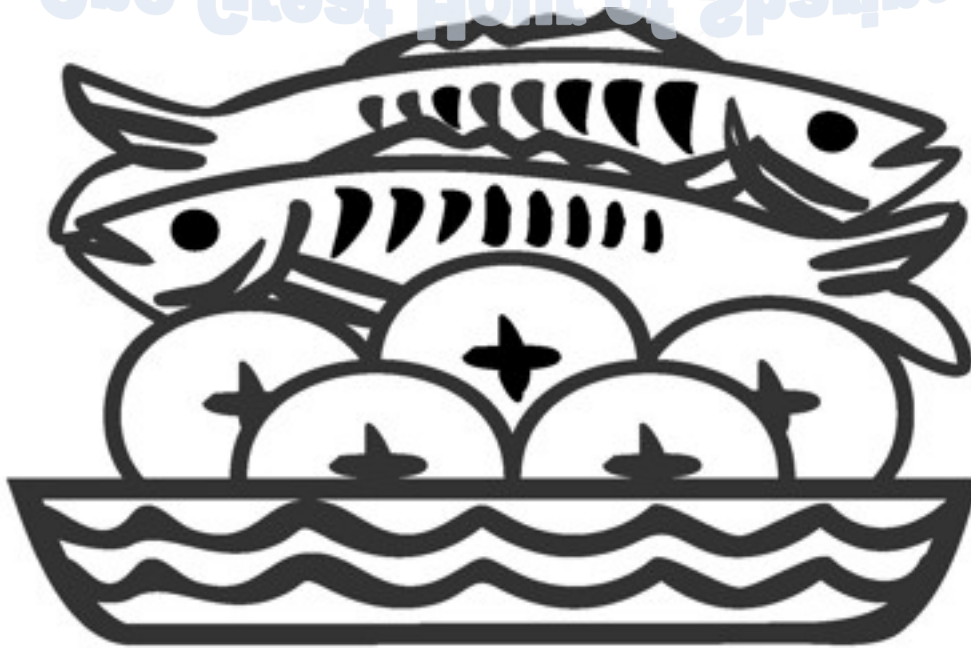
Save a minimum of 10% of your benefits so you have cash to pay the taxes when you file your returns.

This is simply a "heads up" that unemployment benefits may be taxable. This article does not provide tax advice and should not be taken as such. You should consult your tax professional to see what the effects may be in your personal situation.

- Chris Wetzler, Treasurer



## One Great Hour of Sharing



Dear Congregation!

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

There is 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

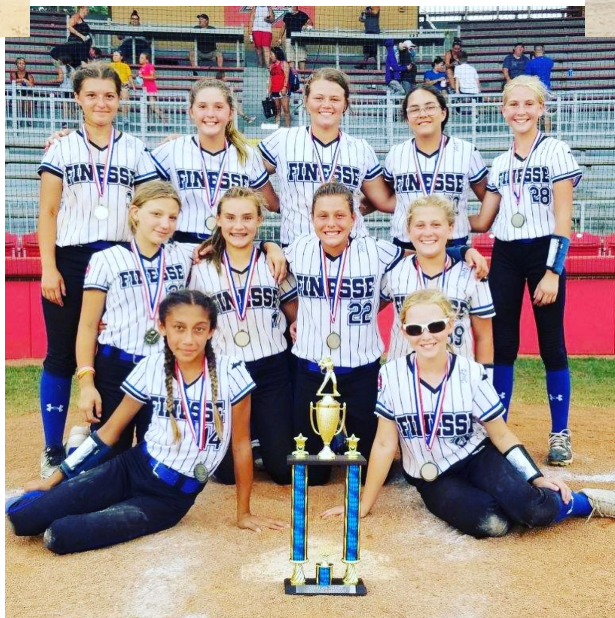




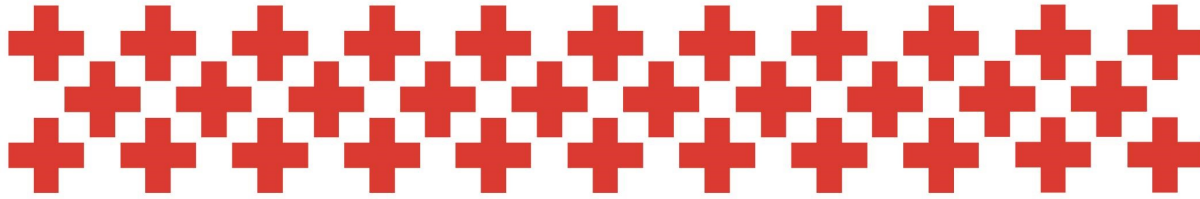
We skipped the Florida tournament because Covid 19 was surging down there, but after quarantine ended at the end of May Reese was still able to do a pretty full season with her travel team. They played seven weekends from the beginning of June to the end of July, and were champions in their last three tournaments. Reese was very strong at bat and played catcher and third base and centerfield, and has actually turned out to be quite a talented outfielder.

All of these tournaments were in Ohio. So they are now gearing up for the 2020/2021 season, and she is on the same team and we expect they will be very strong this year. The team is Finesse Munoz and they are a 12 year old team. (Finesse is the name of the organization they are part of, and Munoz is the last name of her coach. They have multiple teams within each age division so they distinguish them by the last name of the coach.) Reese is super dedicated to her sport and I'm hoping that she stays with it and play in college one day.

- Jennifer Rupert



# Give blood. Help save lives.



In May, I reached out to the American Red Cross in order to offer our building as a potential host location for a Blood Drive. After reaching out to the congregation and to the community beyond for a month, it seemed that many folks were hesitant or distracted as it was yet early in the stages of the COVID surges. I decided to wait for a time before reaching out to you all again.

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/donate-blood/how-to-donate/types-of-blood-donations/whole-blood-donation.html>

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/faq.html#eligibility>

—Alayna Plews, Administrative Assistant

## Peoples Presbyterian Church

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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



# TOP 10 reasons Give to Blood



**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](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [facebook.com/redcrossblood](https://www.facebook.com/redcrossblood)

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 your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate. STAN.info015 | v2 2010/01\_v3 2011/01\_v3 2012/01 © 2012 The American National Red Cross | 02/11AP0124



# 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.**

|     | Name | Email | Phone |
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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](http://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