

The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Weekly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Volume 1, Issue 22

Other than Halloween, which is, of course, my favorite holiday of the year, hands down, there are several smaller holidays (or perhaps "holidays") that I enjoy. There are of course, Groundhog Day (Feb 2) and International Women's Day (Mar 8), which most people know about. March 25 marks the day that the One Ring was destroyed and the first day of the Gondorian calendar in JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* (never doubt that your pastor is a nerd, Peoples). I have hosted many New Year's parties in March since I was a teenager and created all sorts of made-up traditions with my friends. June 9 is Johnny Depp's birthday, which always fell just after school let out for the summer and gave as good an excuse as any to watch movies and eat cake together. He's not my favorite actor, and I'm sure he'd be quite bewildered to know that a group of women who grew up in California still text each other "happy Johnny Depp's birthday!" to each other every year, but it's still a date that I remember.

I have absolutely no idea why August 8 is International Cat Day, nor do I understand why international cats need a holiday, but several years ago on that day, I was part of a group effort to catch an orange cat named Picasso who had escaped his cat-sitter and gotten lost in a university parking lot. "It's an International Cat Day

miracle!!!" we declared, when the sneaky feline was finally caught. Time feels like a strange concept these days, and it's still hard to wrap my head around the idea that it has been six months since I last saw most of you in person. Days of the week are divided into "I'm not seeing humans today and may or may not brush my hair at all" and "creating live streams for God, the internet, and anybody still make me very nervous, so I'm applying a full face of makeup in the hope that it gives me any amount of confidence." It feels especially hard to get to days of the calendar that we would otherwise spend in community--Easter, Pentecost, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day--and I think that's why I've been feeling more than usually drawn to these smaller holidays, days that don't have expectations that can't be met and traditions that can't be maintained, days that I can commemorate by myself in a way that's new. July 20 is the feast day of Saint Wilgefortis, which I was excited to share with you this year, as bizarre and surreal as her story may be.

Fun fact, I am writing this article on September 9, which happens to be "Buy Your Priest a Beer Day." Who made this holiday up? Why? No one has bought me a beer, which I am entirely okay with, since I don't like the taste of beer. The pastor of my home church says that no one bought

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Special points of interest:

- COVID survey
 - Presbytery News
 - Happening this Week
 - Message from the
Stewardship Committee
-

Pastor Leia Continued

him a beer, either, but we virtually clinked water glasses tonight during an adult ed class over zoom that I had joined.

Another holiday that fell this week has probably had more cultural significance than any of these other minor holidays: Star Trek Day, marking the anniversary of when the first episode of the original series was aired on September 8, 1966. I'm sure that most of you are aware that I'm a pretty intense Trekkie, despite sharing a name with the iconic princess--and general!--of its rival franchise, Star Wars. There are many great stories from throughout the decades of Star Trek and the eight additional television series (and two more to come) that have sprung out of the concept of the original series, which only ran for three seasons. I think that my favorite of these stories is that Nichelle Nichols, who played Lieutenant Uhura, was planning to leave the show, but decided to stay after a conversation with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said that she and her character were too important to lose. He told her how important it was to be able to watch a popular TV show with his children in which a person of color was a respected bridge officer and team member, and not playing a servant. George Takei (who grew up in a Japanese internment camp) left acting for a career in politics after Star Trek because the only roles available for him were servants or racial stereotypes. We will truly be able to live long and prosper when we have created a society in which all people are equal and no one is weighed down by the heavy legacy of systemic racism.

What dates or minor holidays are significant to you?

(PS...mark your calendars for September 19. It's International Talk Like a Pirate Day!!!)

*To
Leia*

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday, September 13, 10am: worship on Facebook Live followed by virtual fellowship on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2020-09-13/>

Tuesday, September 15, 8pm: Bible study on Facebook Live

Wednesday, September 16, 8pm: evening prayer on Facebook Liv

Thursday, September 17, 1-3pm: virtual knitting group on zoom :

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/hats-for-cancer-2020-09-17/>

Thursday, September 17, 5pm: virtual fellowship on zoom:

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-cocktail-hour-2020-09-17/>



A Message From Stewardship

Looking Ahead to 2021 by Bob Elliott

Have you thought about 2021 yet?

As Chair of the Stewardship Committee, I'm tasked with making every effort to encourage our Church Family to support Peoples Presbyterian Church financially through personal pledges. Believe it or not, we are already planning for the new year in the Stewardship Committee.

Even with all the restrictions that the Covid-19 impact has put upon us, the needs of our day-to-day ministry are ongoing. We must continue to serve the pre-Covid-19 needs of our Community as none of them have gone away, and more have developed.

We continue to serve the spiritual needs of the Congregation at large, prepare Services each week, keep the Church Web Site up to date, communicate with our congregation with the Mini-Mouse and the PPC Yahoo group postings. We added new features to the Web Site like the Covid-19 pages and the ability to receive donations from the "Give Now" button. We owe a debt of gratitude to Pastor Leia as she has singlehandedly accomplished all the updates and additions to our Web Site.

In addition, we continue to operate the church office and maintain our buildings inside and outside, including the Manse, and meet the financial demands of our infrastructure.

October 18, 2020 will be Consecration Sunday. This is the day we make our Pledge to the Church, although it will likely all be done at a distance due to Covid-19.

I ask each of you, to search you heart during your prayers. What does God expect from you to support your part of His work?

Will you help Him?

In Case you Missed it!

If you haven't filled it out yet, there is a survey for the congregation on our website. We'd like to hear about the ways you've been connecting with people (and with Peoples) and what has been most meaningful to you during this season. You can find the eleven-question survey here:

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/covid-19-survey/>



Deacon's Corner

PPC friends,

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Chuck Pratt as he deals with his health issues; **Lisa Pratt** as she recovers from back pain due to a fall; and **Jay Jones**, former PPC member, who passed away this week.

If you ever have any concerns...or joys, please feel free to share with either Pastor Leia or me, SueBarney-Deacon Moderator.

Family Fold



Pictured below is Evelyn at the 'Bumpy Road School' at Grandma and Grandpa London's house! Happy first week of school, Evelyn!



News From The Presbytery

Unclaimed Property in Michigan!

Below is an excerpt from the regular updates PPC receives from The Presbytery of Detroit. Clerk of Session, Nancy Kuzniar, suggested we share this information with the congregation since it's something that could be very useful for anyone living in the state of Michigan! Thanks, Nancy!

I received an email from a pastor in Lake Michigan Presbytery about **Unclaimed Property in Michigan** and decided to check it out. I want you to know that this is **NOT a hoax**. I urge everyone who has done business or lived in Michigan to click on the link below and enter their last name. For churches I typed in Presbyterian and a number of our churches come up. This may not be a lot of money but every little bit helps. Sandy Jensen, Director of Operations

[https://unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/app/claim-search'](https://unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/app/claim-search)

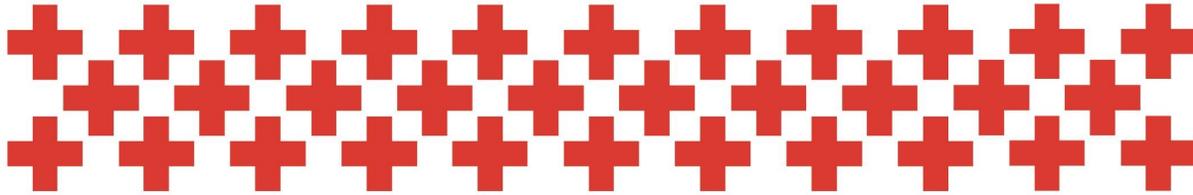
Read News Related to the Presbyterian Church (USA)!

If you follow the link below, you will be directed to the “news” portion the PCUSA website. You can read national and world news as seen through the lens of the Presbytery and some excellent “think pieces”. It's one more way we can all stay connected.

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/>



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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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

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 | 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 | 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