



The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Weekly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Volume 1, Issue 26

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ," (Philippians 1:3-6).

A month ago, we began a worship series on stewardship using the theme "Our Money Story." The series has four parts: remember, release, reimagine, and restore. We all have a money story, whether we think about money as telling a story or not. The way we interact with money--spending it, saving it, wasting it, giving it away, hiding it, losing it, refusing to talk about it--can say something about who we are and what our priorities are.

Considering our own financial narratives invites us to discover and tell our money stories in light of God's money story of liberation and justice. This series encourages us to transform our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe.

In worship, we tell a story of an unfettered love that changed the world. We tell a story of how we live and how we long to live. We tell this story to remember who we are and to be released from the narratives that trap us. We tell this story to reimagine this world to see what God sees and to be restored to right relationship with God

and neighbor.

This theme is intentionally direct—it invites us to name exactly what we're talking about and not skirt around it. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith or prayer.

The worship series is accompanied by pieces of art that illustrate each text. Artist Hannah Garrity wrote these words to accompany one of her pieces: "It is inspiring me to engage financially with the Church in a much more personal way. With sudden clarity, I connected the fact that Jesus' Church is the financial ideology I believe in. The hypocrisy that Jesus observes... is the same hypocrisy that I have always struggled with as a member of the Church of the present. So, what actions can I take, what questions can I ask, and what conversations can I have to ensure that the Church I am giving to is the Church Jesus meant to create?"

This stewardship season, we invite you to remember, release, reimagine, and restore your money stories so that we can write the one God is calling us to live into. I believe that God's story has the power to change the world and I believe that our church is an important part of the story of our community. We are the ones writing the story of our church, and we can choose to write that story to be as exciting and innovative and inclusive and interactive as we want it to be. How can we make sure that our story continues to be one that we are proud to tell?

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Special points of interest:

- Member Tributes
- Flu Season
- Pledge Season
- Happening this Week

In this season, may we remember God's loving and liberating work. May we release that which binds us. May we reimagine this world to see what God sees. May we be restored to love of God and neighbor.

To
Leia



Happening This Week

Sunday, October 11, 10am: worship and communion on Facebook Live followed by virtual fellowship on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2020-10-11/>

Tuesday, October 13, 8pm: Bible study on Facebook Live

Wednesday, October 14, 8pm: evening prayer on Facebook Live

Thursday, October 14, 1-3pm: virtual knitting group on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/hats-for-cancer-2020-10-15/>

Thursday, October 15, 5pm: virtual fellowship on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-cocktail-hour-2020-10-15/>

News from the national church: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/>



An Important Message From Your Treasurer



Last Sunday we had the opportunity to celebrate the life of Don Harkness, long time Milan resident and philanthropist. Don's generosity, community support and humble manner were well known by many in our community. While Don was never an official member of PPC, he remembered our Church in his will, leaving us a bequest of \$50,000. We are incredibly grateful for his gift to us. At the September Session meeting it was decided to open a Money Market checking account at our bank in the amount of \$50,000. Session must approve any withdrawals from this account.

On a different note, we have incurred unanticipated expenses for various repairs that total some \$8,947 as of this writing. We repaired the burned-out parking lot lights for \$387. We incurred boiler and related heating repairs for \$5,325 to repair leaks and repair/upgrade controls. We spent \$3,235 at the Manse to add a sewer clean out so Roto-Rooter could clean out a nasty sewer blockage. Hopefully, these repairs/improvements will not recur, but it has been a cash drain during a most difficult period.

As I have repeatedly noted, we continue to break even for cash flow due solely to the on-going generosity of those who have pledged and continue to honor those pledges. When we constructed the 2020 budget, we included some \$9,500 in contributions from members who did not pledge but gave on a recurring basis. We also included \$3,000 of "cash in the plate" donations from visitors at Christmas, Easter, etc. Due to Covid-19 and the related closing, we will not see those contributions that we anticipated. We need those members who did not pledge but consistently gave to step up and pledge to support PPC's mission.

The bottom line is that it is vitally important to renew our current pledges and hopefully increase them. We need your help and support to make it through this difficult period.

Chris Wetzler, Treasurer



Remembering Our Members: Nicky Bashaw



Nicky Bashaw

May 9, 1972 - July 4, 2020

Nicky, beloved husband of Staci and father to Boston and Brooklyn, passed away at home on July 4, 2020. Nicky married Staci Waterstradt on June 29, 1996. Nicky graduated from Dundee High School. He worked for the Highway Service Company for twenty years. Nicky was a member of Peoples Presbyterian Church for 18 years, joining on April 21, 2002.

Nicky was a very loving and caring man who loved his family with his whole heart and loved being surrounded by them. Even though he did not attend church services regularly, he did love God and his church family. Nicky was a friend to everyone, always there for them and appreciated when people showed friendship to his family. Nicky was a sports fan and really enjoyed watching the Detroit Lions and Tigers with his friends. When Nicky was around, he would light up a room and be the "life of the party."

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, all Nicky's services were performed privately. It was so very sad to lose Nicky at such a young age. Nicky was deeply loved by his family and friends and will always be missed very much! May the sweet memories of Nicky be carried in the hearts of all who knew him. Nicky will remain a loving guardian angel watching over his family forever. †



Remembering Our Members: Von Thompson



Von Thompson

November 25, 1941 - March 27, 2020

Von, the loving husband of Cindi and father to Christian and Annie, passed away at his home on March 27, 2020. Von Thompson and Cindi Reichmann were married in 1966. He was the owner of Tri State Airway, an aviation insurance agency located at the Ann Arbor airport, for 40 years. Von was a licensed pilot and enjoyed flying his family and friends. Von graduated from Milan High School in 1960 and was involved in several sports. Anyone who knew Von was fully aware of his loyalty to the Wyoming Cowboys as a proud graduate of University of Wyoming.

Peoples Presbyterian Church meant a lot to Von. He was baptized on April 5, 1942, and joined the church on April 15, 1956, being a member for 64 years during which time he was an Elder for two terms. Von participated in two different Pastor Nominating Committees as well. We will all remember the delicious Thompson steak dinners and chicken barbecues that were perfectly prepared and well attended.

Von's community involvement included two terms on the Milan City Council, volunteer Milan fireman, member of the Civitan Club, a Webelos leader, little league coach and member of Milan Historical Society. When he moved to York Township, he served two terms as a trustee.

Everyone knew and loved Von Thompson for his kind heart, generous spirit and constant smile on his face. Von was a stranger to no one. He was a friend to depend on and one who will make you laugh at a drop of a hat. His pew at Peoples will have an obvious void as the rest of the Thompson family occupies it. We are all very saddened by Von's death and he will be greatly missed. We will keep all our wonderful memories of Von close to our hearts and smile whenever we hear his name.

A memorial service and celebration of Von's life will be planned when the time is right. As so sweetly put by Cindi, "As Von was always late for everything, it is OK that we will be late with his celebration!"†



Keeping Our Community Healthy

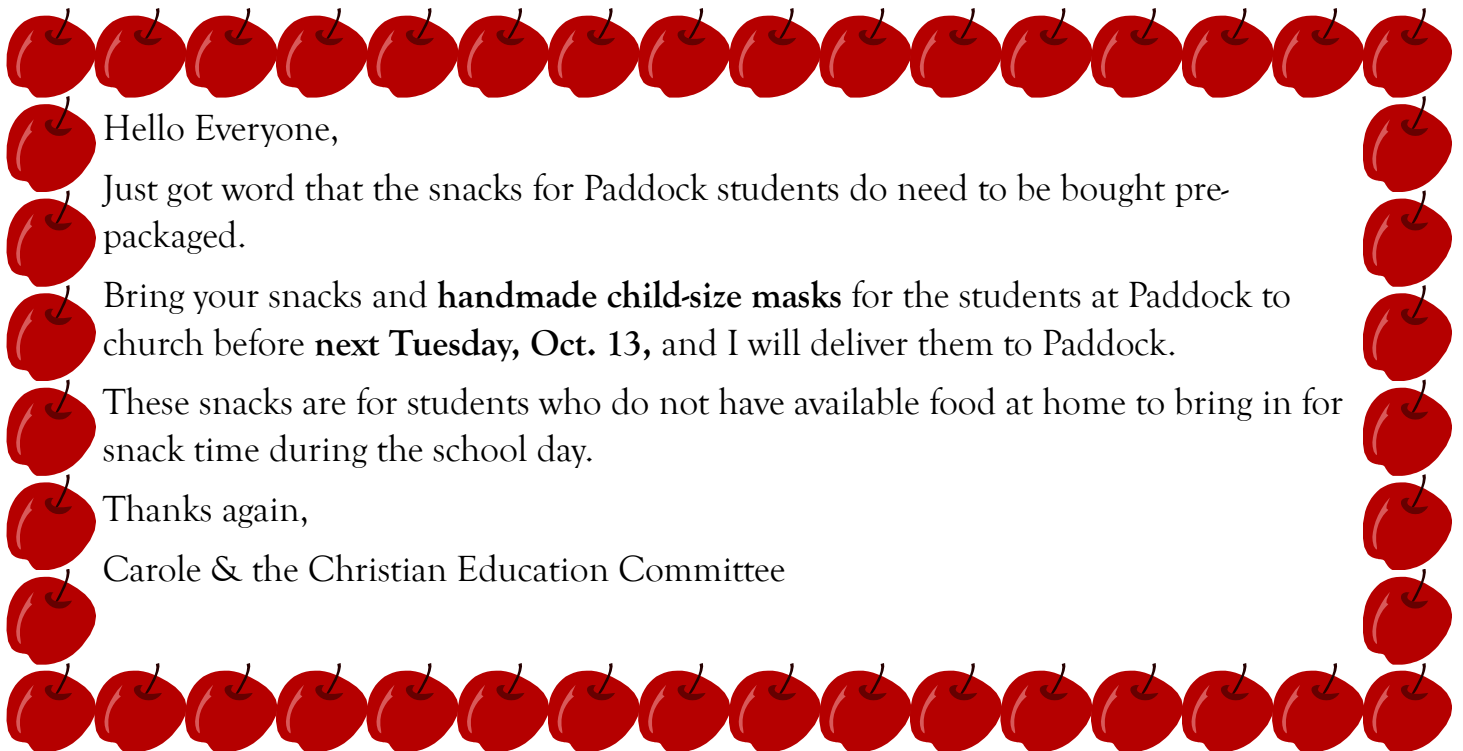


Please get your flu shots (and pneumonia shot if eligible) - it is not too early! For those who want to avoid crowds I highly recommend getting your immunizations at the Little Pharmacy downtown Milan next to the bakery. You can call to schedule a time or just walk in.

They have parking space right behind the store and you can use the back entrance. I was greeted as soon as I entered and there are seats at the back entrance. The staff wore masks, a couple customers came in but didn't come to the back of the store. Excellent customer customer service and painless injection :)

Flu shots are especially important this season, don't delay!

-Diane London



Hello Everyone,

Just got word that the snacks for Paddock students do need to be bought pre-packaged.

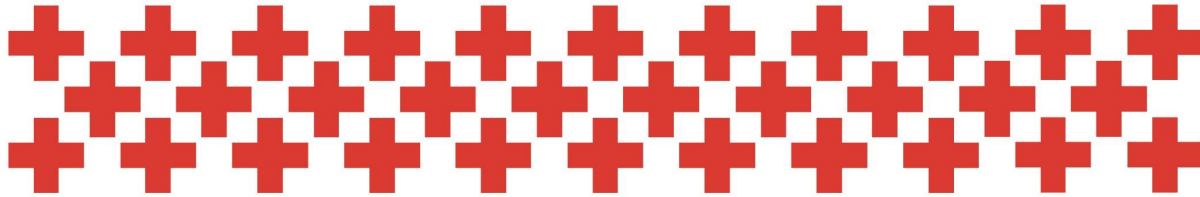
Bring your snacks and **handmade child-size masks** for the students at Paddock to church before **next Tuesday, Oct. 13**, and I will deliver them to Paddock.

These snacks are for students who do not have available food at home to bring in for snack time during the school day.

Thanks again,

Carole & the Christian Education Committee

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

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.

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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