

The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Weekly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Volume 1, Issue 28

As you all probably know by now, Halloween is my very favorite holiday. My first year at seminary, I made cards and gave out candy to all the ladies in my hall and I was really looking forward to the Halloween party in one of the other dorms. One day, I said as much to my friend Becca, and asked what she was dressing up as. She said she wasn't.

What??? I got very indignant and was about to accuse her of having no sense of fun or whimsy or creativity, but then she told me a story.

When she was six years old, Becca was diagnosed with diabetes. All of her memories of Halloween as a kid involve seeing everyone else having a great time while she wasn't allowed to participate and if she did, all her candy was taken away.

There's nothing inherently mean-spirited about Halloween, but it breaks my heart to think of all the little kids who grew up to resent my favorite holiday because grown-ups couldn't be bothered to find ways to include them. Whenever I pass out Halloween candy, I always participate in The Teal Pumpkin Project (<https://www.foodallergy.org/our-initiatives/awareness-campaigns/living-teal/teal-pumpkin-project>), which means that parents know I'm giving out non-food options

that are safe for tiny diabetics or little kids with food allergies. I fill my plastic cauldron with glow sticks and mini Play-doh cups (as well as Oreo packs and fruit snacks).

The way that we celebrate Halloween will have to be modified a bit this year, but I love that for one night a year, neighbors open their door to anyone who knocks and treats are shared without condition. It's what I wish communities looked like all year long.

This year, I'm hoping that masks can be incorporated into Halloween costumes. I'm not sure how many families will be out trick or treating next week, but I think my plan is to put my goodies into individual bags and set them out in between my luminary bags on my front lawn (if it's not raining) rather than hand them out from up close.

However you plan to spend this October 31, whether it's dancing under the full moon, staying in to watch a vampire movie, catapulting chocolate at passers-by from your porch, carving a pumpkin, eating candy corn (blech), or trying to convince your pet to wear a costume, I hope that your Halloween has more treats than tricks.

*Tea
Leia*

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Special points of interest:

- COVID-19 & Halloween
 - Family Fold
 - Happening this Week
-

Happening This Week

Sunday, October 25, 10am: worship on Facebook Live followed by virtual fellowship on zoom:

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2020-10-25/>

Tuesday, October 27, 8pm: Bible study on Facebook Live

Wednesday, October 28, 8pm: evening prayer on Facebook Live

Thursday, October 29, 5pm: virtual fellowship on zoom (grab your favorite candy and we'll toast to Halloween!):

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-cocktail-hour-2020-10-29/>

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

*****Please Be Advised***:**

Last week, Session voted to continue online worship through the month of November 2020 as COVID-19 remains a concern. Thank you for your continuing faith and dedication to Peoples. We miss you and hope you and yours stay safe through the holiday.





Chris & Carolyn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month! Congratulations, Wetzlers!!!

To the right are Carolyn's beautiful fall yard decorations!



Steps to Take When Trick or Treating



Make Trick-Or-Treating Safer



- Avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters.
- Give out treats outdoors, if possible.
- Set up a station with individually bagged treats for kids to take.
- Wash hands before handling treats.
- Wear a mask.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Traditional Halloween activities are fun, but some can increase the risk of getting or spreading COVID-19 or influenza. Plan alternate ways to participate in Halloween.

Wear A Mask



- Make your cloth mask part of your costume.
- A costume mask is **NOT** a substitute for a cloth mask.
- Do **NOT** wear a costume mask over a cloth mask. It can make breathing more difficult.
- Masks should **NOT** be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing.



Wash Your Hands



- Bring hand sanitizer with you and use it after touching objects or other people.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Parents: supervise young children using hand sanitizer.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home and before you eat any treats.



Keep Your Distance



- Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you
- Indoors and outdoors, you are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when you are in close contact with others for a long time.

Steps to Take for Other Halloween Activities

Enjoy Halloween activities and take steps to protect yourself from getting or spreading COVID-19

Remember to always

- Wear a cloth mask
- Indoors and outdoors, stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently



Decorate and carve pumpkins

- Decorate your home for Halloween.
- Carve pumpkins with members of your household or outside with neighbors or friends.
- Walk from house to house, admiring Halloween decorations at a distance.



Visit an orchard, forest, or corn maze. Attend a scavenger hunt.

- Go on an outdoor Halloween-themed scavenger hunt.
- Visit a pumpkin patch or orchard. Remember to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently, especially after touching frequently touched surfaces, pumpkins, or apples.
- Go to a one-way, walk-through haunted forest or corn maze.

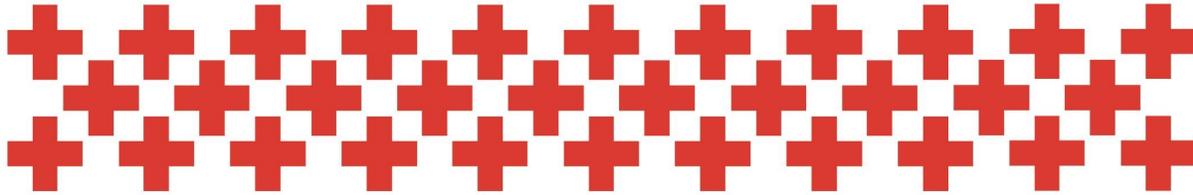
Other Ideas

- Hide Halloween treats in and around your house. Hold a Halloween treat hunt with household members.
- Hold an outdoor costume parade or contest so everyone can show off their costumes.
- Host an outdoor Halloween movie night with friends or neighbors or an indoor movie night with your household members.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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

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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