



The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



Manse Cat Weekly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Volume 1, Issue 30

We have a guest writer for our newsletter this week! One of my colleagues in ministry, the Rev. Alina M. Kanaski, wrote this lovely second part to an article I shared in August. Pastor Alina serves two churches: Chartiers Valley United Presbyterian Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, both in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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You may remember that a few months ago I wrote a letter to you all about a practice I had started: 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 (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.

That feels especially appropriate now, in this time and place, where our sacraments look so very different. It is an entirely new thing for us to say the words ("This is the body of Christ; this is the blood of Christ") and eat our variety of breads and wines (coffee cake and cinnamon rolls and crackers, paired with water and coffee and wine and whatever else we have on hand) while we're together only over the phone or computer. This is not the same as being together every Sunday and seeing our sisters and brothers and being handed the bread and wine and knowing that we're all sharing the same food.

But know that this is still a sacrament, still an overflowing of God's grace for each one of us, whether you are able to call in on Sunday morning or not—that God is eternally with you. The fact that we are not all eating from the same food and drinking from the same wine does not keep God from saying through it: "This is my body, and this is my blood. You are loved, and you are forgiven."

And know that, just as I discovered the first time I wrote about this practice of seeking out sacraments and God's grace all around me, you too are surrounded by reminders of God's grace: the voice of a friend, the cardinal outside your window, a meal you've gifted or received, or any one of the other thousands of ways that God reminds you: You are loved. You are precious. God will always be with you.

*Leia*

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### Special points of interest:

- Pledges 2021
  - Family Fold
  - Election Week
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## Prayers for Election Week

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**Rev. Beth M. Wodard**

**(St. Michael's Lutheran Church, High Point, North Carolina):**

On this [day/evening/night], as we await electoral information and results, may our hearts, our minds, our spirits, and our bodies abide in your unfailing presence. Still our anxieties, O God, and point us toward the way of love for all with whom we live and walk, work and play, tend and love. Pour out your healing and wholeness upon us all, in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sarah Are (A Sanctified Art):**

Holy God, We come to you today in prayer, full of emotions. Election seasons always seem to bring that out in us— Worry and hope, fear and frustration. The list could go on. So today we bow our heads and ask for guidance. Open our ears to hear the groans of creation. Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Open our hearts to make room for empathy. Give us the wisdom to navigate challenging conversations. Give us the patience to disagree with grace. Give us the compassion to make decisions for the greater good. And when all else fails, bring us back to love. Bring our hearts and our hands, Our dreams and our hopes, Our anger and our frustration, Our hurt and our fear, All back to love. With hope we pray, With hope we are sustained. Amen.

**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.**

### **Pledge Drive Update**

A great big Thank You to all of you who have turned in your pledges for 2021!

A reminder to those who have not yet pledged to please do so as soon as possible. The Stewardship committee is in the process of contacting those who have yet to pledge and asks for your cooperation.

It is important to get those pledges in so that we can finalize our planning for the upcoming year. So far, pledges are below what we had hoped for and what we need to meet an already reduced budget for next year. This could lead to a reduced ability to achieve our Church's mission.

If you have not pledged in the past but want to continue to support our Church's mission, please make a pledge. We need your support.

We also are asking everyone to review the status of their current pledges. If you are behind on your current pledge, please try to "catch up" if at all possible. We understand that it has been a very difficult time for all of us for many reasons and we understand if your situation precludes additional donations at this time.

We all want our Church to survive these unprecedented times and be able to flourish again. With your continued generous support, we will weather this storm.

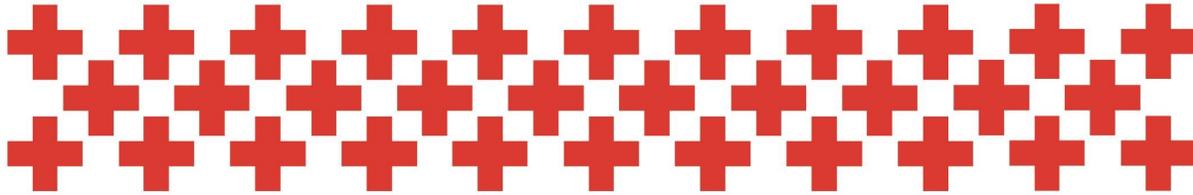
Your Stewardship Committee



Linda and Rod Cranson were presented the Milan Bootifacation Award for their Halloween decorations in their yard.

Congratulations!

*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

210 Smith Street Milan, MI 48160

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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

# 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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| 30. |      |       |       |

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