

### Manse Cat Weekly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Volume 1, Issue 32

As we enter into December and the beginning of the Advent season, I'd like to share a few more ideas for new spiritual practices as suggested by my colleague in ministry, the Rev. Linda Kurtz, who serves at the First Presbyterian Church of Lexington, Kentucky. As we prepare the way of the Lord, whose incarnation we celebrate at Christmas, I invite you to consider changing up the way you pray and seeing if one of these practices might enrich your conversation with God.

#### Watch a Movie

#### Watch a movie (or TV

**show).** Seriously! But while you watch, be thinking about how you see faith in action. How do the film's themes or characters' actions align with your own beliefs? How or where do you see God at work?

You might choose a film or show with overt religiosity, like "The Two Popes" (on Netflix), "The Prince of Egypt" (Hulu and Amazon Prime Video), or "The Good Place" (Netflix and Hulu). You could also choose something not obviously religious and see how the Spirit opens your imagination. (Hint: "Wonder Woman" might not seem religious, but it has major religious tones you can't miss -- especially near the end!)

#### Use Time Soulfully

Keep track of your activities and the approximate time you give them. At the end of the day (or tomorrow), look back on your time keeping. On what did you spend the most time? The least? What does that communicate about your priorities -- at least that day? What adjustments could you make to use your time more soulfully?

#### List God Sightings

Where have you seen God at work in your life and the world lately? **Today, make a list of 5 God sightings.** You can limit yourself to the past week, month, or whatever timeline feels best. Perhaps you experienced God when a friend called you recently. Perhaps you felt God during a walk outside. Spend some time reflecting and making your list. When you are done, give thanks to God for God's everlasting commitment to God's people.

#### Appreciate God's creation

Today, get completely out of this world by looking at <u>NASA's astronomy picture of</u> <u>the day</u>. Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer.

God's creation is so much bigger than any one of us, and even our planet. Look at the photo, read the explanation, and consider what the photo tells you about God.



### Manse Cat Monthly - 1 Pastor Leia Happening This Week 2 Thank You! 3 AIM Adopt-a-Family 4

Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

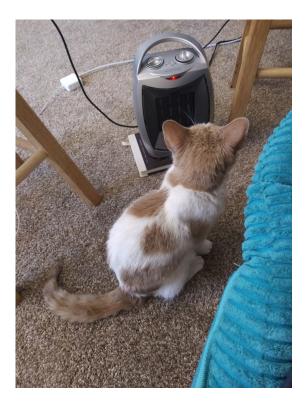
- Aid in Milan Needs
- Mission
- Happening this Week

#### Happening This Week

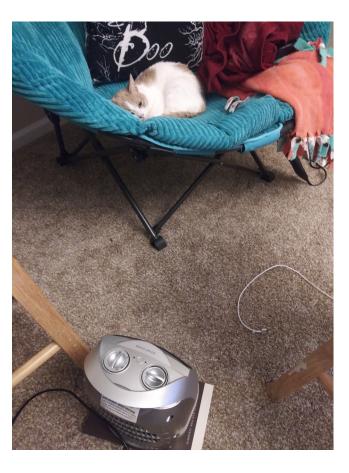
Tuesday, December 1, 8pm: Bible study on Facebook Live Wednesday, December 3, 8pm: evening prayer service for Thanksgiving on Facebook Live Thursday, December 4, 5pm: virtual fellowship on zoom: https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-cocktail-hour-2020-12-03/ Sunday, December 6, 10am: Second Sunday of Advent

#### worship on Facebook Live followed by virtual fellowship on zoom:

https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2020-12-06/



GingerSanp has found her winter romance with Pastor Leia's space heater.



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

\*\*\*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 collect \$170 for Aid in Milan and donated 10 turkey dinners! A big "thank you" for all of the donations! A special thanks to Georgia Anderson for helping to pack boxes!

The Mission Committee



#### Aid In Milan: Adopt-a-Family

# \*Urgent!\*:

Adopt-a-Family Program

Thank you for your holiday support to Milan families in need. Through the generous donations from members like you, Aid in Milan was able to match 70 families with donors in 2019, and provide items to many other families.

This year, there is a dramatic increase in service need due to the pandemic. To keep staff, volunteers, families, and you as safe as possible, AIM is requesting gift cards. To simplify donating for us, the Mission Committee is requesting donations, by check, to

"Peoples Presbyterian Church with AIM Adopt-a-Family" written in the notation line. Chad Lawver will purchase gift cards from your donations. AIM needs to receive our gift cards by December 8th. PPC's deadline for receiving the supporting checks is Thursday, December third— a week from Thanksgiving. We are so sorry this is such short notice. Thank

you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office or Carol Vollink.

## 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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#### 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





#### **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 | If facebook.com/redcrossblood

# 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