

A PLACE TO
BELONG...

A PLACE TO
BECOME...

A PLACE TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Church Mouse

Volume 12 || Issue 7

October/November 2018

Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

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Every now and then, I am especially pleased with how elements of our services turn out. As we end our month-long series on the stories of Moses, I want to share with you the prayer that I wrote around the story of the ten plagues, as well as the new hymn that I wrote for the occasion.

Holy One, God of the living water, we pray that all people might have access to clean water. We remember when the Nile ran red with blood, but we also remember when Jesus turned water to wine, and the waters of our baptism are precious. Be with us as we protect our water sources and the beautiful earth You gave us.

Holy One, God of sacred silence, we pray that all people are able to find time for peace and stillness to pray, to contemplate, and talk with You. We remember when armies of frogs swarmed through every home. Be with us as we seek You and as we praise Your name.

Holy One, God of hearth and home, we pray that all people have safe living conditions to stay dry and warm, without fear of bedbugs, fleas, cockroaches, or termites. We remember when ghosts of gnats descended on the flesh of humans and animals. Be with us as we remember to be thankful for the blessings of our own homes.

Holy One, God of peace, we pray that all people might live in harmony, without violence, without war, without bullying, without domestic abuse, without hatred, without discrimination. We remember when hordes of wild animals raged through the land of Egypt. Be with us as we work to create peace in the world.

Holy One, God of all animals, we pray for the health of animals, for those facing extinction and the loss of habitat, for the animals we rely on for food and income, and for the animals who have joined our families as pets. We remember when all the livestock of the Egyptians died overnight. Be with us as we care for the animals of Your creation.

Holy One, God of our bodies, we pray that all people may have access to healthcare, the opportunity for good health and healing, the chance to become and stay sober from drugs and alcohol, the support to maintain personal fitness, and the ability to stay safe from physical harm. We remember when the skin of the Egyptians was covered in boils and sores. Be with us as we care for all Your children in sickness and in health.

Holy One, God of the skies, we pray for all people affected by Hurricane Florence, that they may have the ability to leave for safety, that they may have supplies to ride out the storm, that they are able to keep in contact with friends and loved ones, that first responders are prepared for every eventuality, and that the hurricane passes over the coast with as little damage as possible. We remember when the Egyptians sought shelter from thunder and hail. Be with us as we wait for the news after the storm.

Continued on page 2

Holy One, God of the earth that provides for us, we pray for all crops, that they may be harvested in abundance, that all people may have enough good food to eat, that food be shared willingly, and that no one should have to suffer hunger or wonder where their next meal will come from. We remember when the earth was swarming with locusts that ate every last growing thing. Be with us as we break bread in Your name.

Holy One, God of our hearts and minds, we pray for all people experiencing darkness, whether it is the darkness of grief, or of doubt, or of fear, the darkness of depression and other mental illnesses, or the spiritual emptiness known as the dark night of the soul. We remember when the land of Egypt was covered in a thick darkness, darkness so thick that it might be felt. Be with us as share the light of Christ with the world.

Holy One, God of all children, we pray that all people will have the opportunity to receive a good education, that all young people may live happily in stable homes, that all children may grow up surrounded by love and care, and that they will never lose the ability to make choices for their own lives. We remember when God passed over the homes of Hebrew families but the angel of death stole away the firstborn sons of each Egyptian home. Be with us as we care for the children of this congregation and of the world.

Amen.

“Remember That the Lord is God”

lyrics by LR Battaglia (2018) Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Psalm 105:28-36
(to the tune AZMON, e.g., “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” # 610)

Remember that the Lord is God
And teach your children well;
Let heart and soul and might be awed
That in God's love we dwell.

God sent a darkness o'er the land
So thick it might be felt;
God changed the Nile that lapped the sand
By streams of blood men knelt.

God gave the sign, and swarms of flies
Through Pharaoh's country flew;
And croaking frogs drowned out his lies
As his heart in hardness grew.

Next, God sent down great storms of hail
That battered homes and fields;
Then swarms of locusts like a veil
That soon devoured all yield.

Then finally, one tragic night
Egypt's first sons were killed;
The heart of Pharaoh shook in fright
God's promise was fulfilled.

And so the slaves from Egypt fled
Slipped past the Pharaoh's hand;
Through waters safely they were led,
And towards the Promised Land.

Jack McClary - "Milan veteran honored with motorcycle ride" The Monroe News



Escorted by Milan police and about 70 motorcycle enthusiasts, Jack McClary rode from Milan to Tecumseh and back in the sidecar of a 2016 Indian motorcycle owned by Dan (Griz) Kofahl of Tecumseh.

Jack McClary, a veteran of the U.S. Army and World War II who will turn 100 on Nov. 7, got the ride of his life Sunday.

Foundation 14, a nonprofit organization that puts combat veterans on motorcycles to help with their combat-related issues, honored McClary on Memorial Day in May for his military service and longevity as a Milan resident. Unfortunately, there

was a miscommunication that day and McClary never got to ride on a motorcycle to the Harley Davidson dealership in Tecumseh as he had hoped, said Mark Taylor A. Taylor of Milan, who arranged Sunday's trip.

"Jack told me that he thought he was going to ride in the poker run that was planned," Taylor said in an email Tuesday. "I had no idea that he wanted to ride, so I told him that I would find a way to get him back in the wind."

With help from his neighbor, Eva Ruff, Taylor posted a request on Facebook for a sidecar for McClary to ride in around Milan. About 70 motorcycle enthusiasts from around southeast Michigan and other clubs and riding groups joined in to help make the ride memorable for McClary.

Everyone was "glad to be part of this special event to honor this war hero," Taylor said.



Jack McClary - "Milan veteran honored with motorcycle ride" The Monroe News

Brett Moyer, McClary's next-door neighbor, said his friend once owned an Indian motorcycle years ago. "He just wanted to go for a ride," said Moyer, who rode his own motorcycle. "He certainly enjoyed it. When they asked him if he wanted to ride back to Milan, there was a big smile on his face."

Milan Mayor Dominic Hamden called the ride "one of the most amazing things I have been able to participate in as mayor."

McClary served as a captain and was an artillery officer for the 5th Army and fought in the Battle of Monte Cassino under Gen. Mark Clark during the Italian Campaign.

He moved to Milan in the early 1950s, and worked for the Ford Motor Co. as a supervisor, and as a chief financial officer at the University of Michigan Hospital. He spent some time in the Chicago area for work, as well as in Minneapolis-St Paul, Minn. His wife, Betty, died in 2014. The couple had three sons: Michael, Dan and Keith. Keith, who lives in Ypsilanti, watched his father ride.

McClary is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 423 in Ann Arbor. He attends Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan, and is an active member of the Milan Senior Center.

Taylor said he was thrilled to see so many participants ride along with his friend and to bring the community together to honor one member of "America's Greatest Generation."

"I am deeply honored to know Jack who is my fellow veteran, my brother in arms," he said.



Christian Education

By Carole London
Christian Education Committee

The CE Fall Kickoff was met with lots of backpacks to be blessed by Pastor Leia, and the kids got a positive send off into the 2018-19 school year. Healthy Back-to-School butterfly snack packs were made during class, and the kids were also given a special keychain with a light and whistle for fun and safety.

It was our pleasure to honor our two current school teachers, Chad and Kristen Lawver, with a new set of dry erase markers. . . as exciting as a new box of crayons. They are dealing with a new generation of kids and social stresses in the classroom, and we thanked them for their ability to effectively educate the students as well as being such great role models for them. All our former teachers and school staff were recognized and presented a flower for their service in the classroom in years past.

Our school supplies collection for Paddock is winding down. We have filled a large tub to over-flowing during September and we thank you so much! The supplies will be used by teachers at Paddock or given to students in need — delivered at the end of September.

The calendar says that next month will be October . . . but in CE we are calling it ***Socktober*** for a good reason! We will be collecting new socks during the month of October to be donated to Aid in Milan. They will be using the socks at Christmas time in their care packages for families who were not able to be adopted. Aid in Milan was very excited to hear we were going to collect socks, as they are such an essential piece of clothing for everyone. **Bring in new socks for men, women, kids, and babies.** For the kids, go wild and find some fun patterns or perhaps fuzzy, too. There will be a laundry basket in the Narthex to collect the socks. *Let's "sock it to 'em" all during October!*

Reminders:

Come dressed in your non-scary Halloween costume on **Sunday, October 28!** On **November 4**, Daylight Saving Time ends. Feel free to come comfy cozy to church in your pajamas!



Peoples Presbyterian Church's Christmas Party will be Friday, December 7, with activities, movie in the lounge, and a potluck! Girls . . . Pastor Leia has agreed to give you manicures that night, too!!! There will be something for everyone!! *Details coming soon!*

Christmas is coming and that means another beloved children's Christmas Pageant . . . rehearsal will be Saturday, December 15, with the pageant being presented on Sunday, **December 16**, right after worship.

Don't miss the **Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm** this year. The kids will be given glow sticks as an alternative to the lit candles.

Christian Education

By Carole London
Christian Education Committee

Dates to Remember:



October 28 - *wear your non-scary Halloween costume to church!*

October 31 - Canopy-on-the-Corner: cider & cookies on the corner of the church lawn during Milan's trick or treat 6 pm-8 pm

November 4 - Daylight Saving Time ends - wear your pajamas and be comfortable!



18 - bring in your aluminum pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities



December 7 - *PPC Christmas Party!!!*



15 - Christmas Pageant rehearsal (10 am until noon)

16 - *Christmas Pageant* after worship



24 - **Christmas Eve Service** at 6 pm
(glow stick "candles" for kids!)

January 6 - Epiphany Sunday and Birthday Party for Jesus!

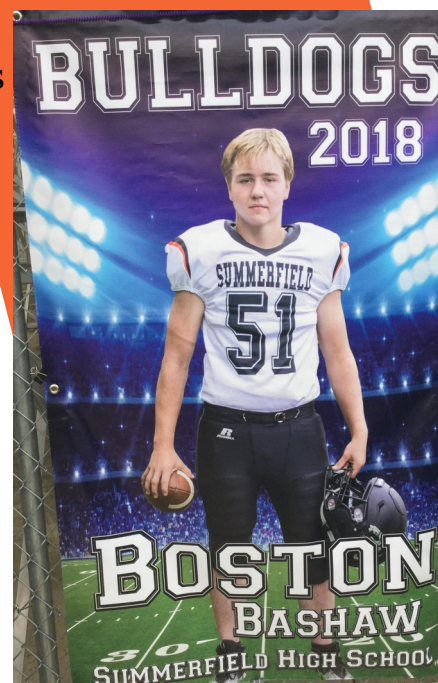


YOUTH SPOTLIGHT!



Alex Vollink-Frand (left) in his Saline Hornet football uniform. Alex is a senior, and he plays offensive lineman for the Hornets. The team's current record is 3 wins and 1 loss. Alex has been playing football since he was 5 years old. *Have a great season, Alex!*

Boston Bashaw (right) in his Summerfield Bulldogs football uniform. Boston is a senior, and he plays center for the Bulldogs. His team's current record is 2 wins and 2 losses. Boston has been playing football since 3rd grade. *Have a great season, Boston!*



Reese Rupert (center, sunglasses) and her softball team won the district championship! The trophy their team won is displayed at the corner of Main and Wabash in Collins Center in Milan. Then they went to the state tournament, and won their pool, then moved into the final eight. I think they finished 5th overall tying with the other teams that were eliminated that day. *Congratulations, Reese!*



HOW DO YOU LEARN ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED, WHAT'S HAPPENING, AND WHAT'S BEING PLANNED TO HAPPEN AT PPC?

From: Nancy Kuzniar

We have all occasionally missed out on a PPC event because we didn't know about it. Or we knew at one point and then forgot. Or we found out too late to make plans or change prior plans. Frustrating, isn't it? How do we find out about and keep track of what's going on at PPC?

- Well for starters, information is listed on the Sunday bulletin insert, which is easy to take home for reference during the week. So – come to church on Sunday mornings, and then take your bulletin insert home with you.
- Email – Many if not most of us use email on a regular basis. The PPC Yahoo Group is an excellent way to share a quick church-related update or reminder, make or learn of a prayer request, or announce a PPC activity. We can all use it to send church-relevant announcements or reminders to all the others on the Yahoo Group list. It is not for sharing jokes or other non-church conversations. If you're not on the Yahoo Group list yet and would like to be, contact Office Nancy to find out how to sign up.



Facebook – A few years ago, I signed up for FB, and recently have been seeing photos about PPC activities posted there. Office Nancy has been enthusiastically posting on FB all manner of announcements and photos of church events, including bulletin covers and sermon titles for upcoming Sunday worship services. Once you've signed up for Facebook, you are not required to write or post anything. Just read. It can be a very passive, observer, kind of thing.

Click this
icon!

Recently, Office Nancy mentioned that she has been posting events and other items of church family interest on newer social media – those other “newfangled” (to this senior citizen) social media systems:

Instagram



Twitter



Click this icon!
It will take you to our page!

Nancy posts to all of them. Initially I thought – “who needs all those?” More recently I'm starting to wonder why I should be reluctant/afraid/unwilling to try something new. Old dogs CAN learn new tricks, if they are taught how. I have been signed up on Instagram for a couple of years, although I've only posted one photo so far. I haven't learned how to sign up for Twitter yet. No, I do not plan on “tweeting up a storm.” I'm not sure I want to “tweet” at all. But, I can learn a new thing, and it will provide another information source. I might even discover I like it! Office Nancy says it's easier than Facebook. We shall see. Consider joining me in learning about and signing up on these current information sources.

In the meantime, see you at the next PPC event – which you can learn about from all the above information-sharing methods.

PPC Cancer Hats Project

From: Nancy Kuzniar



October 18

(the third Thursday)

1:00 – 3:00 pm

PPC Lounge

To socialize while we knit or crochet or sew hats
for cancer patients.

We can teach you how to knit/crochet, if you'd like —
or you can just come and hang out!

The hats are donated to the Oncology unit at
St. Joe Hospital for patients who have lost their hair due
to chemo treatments.



Next "Hats" date:

November 15

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Join us!



Church Directory

Our new church directory, published by Lifetouch, is almost ready—it has been sent to the publishing department and they are in the process of formatting and printing it to send out soon!

Hopefully you will have your new directory within the month.
Thank you to everyone who participated—the photos look great!

You will receive an email from Nancy in the church office when they arrive.



Pastor We are nearing the end of our summer Bible study series on Revelation and looking forward to a new heaven and a new Earth. Our new tradition of First Fridays Movie Nights will be continuing. All five sermons this month will cover scenes from the life of Moses, before we finally return to the lectionary. My recent installation service was beautiful and I want to thank everyone who made it possible! (But no, sorry, I will not be baking chocolate-filled braids for every communion.) Gingersnap is still wearing her red Wonder Woman collar in honor of my installation but may switch back to green for ordinary time soon, unless she decides to show her support for her favorite team instead.

Presbytery Doris Campbell is Commissioner for the September 25, 2018, Presbytery meeting at Dearborn First Presbyterian.

Buildings and Grounds Roof leak 4. Repair people came again. Trapped one 'possum, released him back into wild - situation under control. There are problems again with the city's sewer system backing up church building drains, toilets not flushing, and flooding in the boiler room and pantry. The city has been working to clear the blocked pump station at the Smith/Marvin intersection.

Christian Education The Fall Kickoff was held on Sunday, September 2. Current school teachers Chad and Kristen Lawver were given a bouquet of dry-erase markers. Former school teachers were recognized and given flowers. Anyone who wanted to had their backpacks blessed for a good school year. Students were given a keychain that included a whistle, compass, and flashlight. As a service project for the month of September, we will collect school supplies which will be donated to the Milan schools. In the coming months we will be planning for "Socktober," Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Fellowship Merry Makers has scheduled a dinner at JR's on October 20 at 5pm.

Membership Thank you to my committee and others for helping out with coffee hour this month. We are waiting for our photo directory to be delivered soon.

Mission and Outreach We are currently in the middle of the Peacemaking Offering. The Hill House meal for the homeless on Sunday, September 9, went very well. Approximately 40 people were served, and there were plenty of leftovers for them to take.

Stewardship Consecration Sunday is being planned for Sunday, November 11. Details for this emphasis are being worked out by the committee.

Worship and Music August 21 Meeting: Pastor Leia's installation was on September 2, at 3:00 p.m. Leia has completed and distributed a Worship Service outline through the end of the year. The Pastor will be at a conference in Chicago on October 21; a guest preacher will lead worship and preach. The September 18 Worship and Music Committee meeting was cancelled.



Note from the Treasurer

From: Chris Wetzler



We are beginning our Pledge Drive for this year, which will conclude with new pledges on **Consecration Sunday, November 11, 2018**. There will be a luncheon after church that day, stay tuned for details.

Our pledge goal for this year is \$120,000. While this sounds like a lot of money, it is what it takes to run our church for a year. Our costs are relatively fixed, some 68% of the budget goes to personnel, about 23% to buildings and grounds, and 7% to stewardship. The remaining 3% is spent on other programs such as Christian Ed, worship and music, etc.

We are asking all supporters of our church, including those who have not pledged in the past, to fill out a pledge card, as it is vital that we understand our cash flow and are able to plan our activities. If we can hit our pledge goal, we will have monies for VBS and other activities without asking for extra contributions for those events. We ask that you assess your total contributions to our church, including “extras” along the way and simply build that into an annual pledge. We have a pretty good thing going here, with lots of activities and we need your help to continue our ministry and mission activities here in Milan.

We are also asking you to enroll in our e-giving program. With this service you no longer have to worry about finding your checkbook, running out of checks, being low on cash, or trying to remember to “catch up” if you are unable to attend. Just fill out a simple form to have your annual pledge deducted from your bank account on a schedule of your choosing. You can choose weekly, monthly, semi-monthly, whatever works for you. You sign up for one year at a time. With this service you are committing to fulfill your pledge and provide support to our church on a regular basis.

There is a deeply spiritual side to all of this, reflecting on all that God has provided to us and what we are able to give back to further His ministry here at Peoples Church. In the weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday, please think about what Peoples Church means to you and what your pledge should be.

Thank you for your continuing support and service to our Church.

Elders, Deacons, and PPC Nominating Committee

From: Nancy Kuzniar

Are you thinking about ways you can serve your church? Have you ever thought you might be interested in being part of the PPC Session? On the Board of Deacons? On the PPC Nominating Committee? Church members are nominated for all of these positions by the PPC Nominating Committee, and are then elected at the Annual Congregational meeting in late January each year.

According to the Book of Order, Elders and Deacons may be elected for three, two, or one year terms – (usually three unless they are filling a vacancy). They may serve six consecutive years, but then must take a year off before being eligible to run for election again for the same office. Nominating Committee members are elected for one-year terms, and are eligible to serve three consecutive years. All nominees must be Active Members of PPC (must have joined the church).

At the end of 2018, three Elders on Session will have completed six consecutive years, so three new members will need to be elected for next year's Session. A third current Elder is eligible for re-election. All three Deacons who are completing three-year terms are eligible for re-election. Three members on the five-member 2018 Nominating Committee are maxing out at three years, and are not eligible for re-election to the Nominating Committee next year.

If you are curious, or are interested in learning more about these ways to serve your church, please contact the pastor or Clerk of Session Nancy Kuzniar for more information. If you're already aware of what these various positions are and are interested in serving, please contact Sue Barney, chair of the 2018 Nominating Committee.

Security Note

From: Rachel Flint

Security Issues concerning the exterior Smith Street Doors:

When unlocking the two exterior doors to Smith Street (the sanctuary entrance and the fellowship entrance) by the outside lock with your keys, please make certain that you relock any lock you open. These locks must be manually relocked, and do not lock automatically.

The exterior doors have been found to be unlocked with no one around the church on two separate recent Sunday mornings. Thanks for your help.





Fellowship

From: Charles Pratt

Merry Makers has scheduled a dinner at JR's on October 20 at 5:00 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

We will have a **Planning Meeting for the Church Christmas Party and Potluck** on Saturday, November 10 at 11:00 am in the church lounge.

Please email Charles Pratt to let him know if you plan to attend.



Mission Update

From: Chad Lawver

Mission provided fried chicken dinner to the homeless at Hill House in Ann Arbor. We served approximately 40 people and it was a wonderful experience.

A big thank you to all who contributed to the Peacemaking Offering.

This Offering supports the efforts of our congregation (25%), presbytery/synod (25%), and Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (50%) to spread the peace of Christ and to give hope in the midst of challenge and conflict. Peoples Presbyterian Church will use part of the 25% to send to SafeHouse to help women and their children affected by domestic violence/sexual assault.



We will have our annual *Canopy-on-the-Corner* on Halloween night. Come by to have a cookie and Wasem's cider during Milan's trick or treat 6-8 pm.



Connect with us on social media!

Once you're on our page,
click on **"LIKE"** or
"FOLLOW" so that you
will see updates!

CLICK
ME!



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Search: Peoples Presbyterian Church
OR

<https://www.facebook.com/Peoples-Presbyterian-Church-116211615073224/>

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ME!



Join us on Instagram:

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CLICK
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Join us on Twitter:

@ppc_milan

Search: Peoples Presbyterian Church
OR

https://twitter.com/ppc_milan

EMAIL
ME!



Subscribe to our PPC Yahoo Email Group:

Send an email to this address:

ppcmilan-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you have any questions about joining or using
any social media, Nancy S. is happy to help!
Just stop by the office!

2018 October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 7:00 pm Handbells	2	3 9:00 am Bible Study - lounge Revelation 21-22 7:00 pm Bookworms	4	5 7:00 pm First Fridays — Movie & Potluck! The Ten Commandments part II 	6
7 10 am Worship: World Communion Sunday, Communion, Green Tape Sunday, CE <i>Minute for Mission in support of Peacemaking</i>	8 7:00 pm Handbells	9	10 9:00 am Bible Study - lounge “What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still be a Christian?” Chapters: 1-2, 11-12	11	12	13 
14 10 am Worship, Handbells, CE Session monthly reports due to Clerk	15 7:00 pm Handbells	16	17 <u>NO</u> Bible Study	18 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer - lounge 	19	20 Merry Makers dinner at JR’s 5 pm
21 10 am Worship, CE Session packets ready for pick-up	22 7:00 pm Handbells	23 7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting - lounge	24 9:00 am Bible Study - lounge Chapters: 3-4, 13-14 6:00 pm CE Meeting— YR 7:00 pm Session meeting - lounge	25	26	27
28 10 am Worship: Reformation Sunday, Handbells, CE—wear non-scary costumes to church!	29 7:00 pm Handbells	30	31 Halloween 9:00 am Bible Study - lounge Chapters: 5-6, 15-16 Canopy-on-the-Corner (church lawn) 6-8pm 			



Peoples Presbyterian Church

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